

Jobless adults show first real increase in 10 months

The latest Department of Employment figures show an increase of 5,000 in adult unemployment, after seasonal adjustment, to 1,310,000 or 5.6 per cent of Britain's workforce. This is the first increase in 10 months. The crude jobless total, which includes school-leavers, increased by 131,000 to top the 1.5 million mark.

School leavers swell total to 1,512,000

By Melvyn Westlake

For the first time for 10 months adult unemployment in Britain has shown a rise after allowance is made for seasonal distortions. And the level of notified vacancies has shown a first decline over the same period when seasonally adjusted.

This reversal of the recent encouraging trends, which since last autumn have helped to mute criticism of the Government over the jobless total, was disclosed by the Department of Employment yesterday.

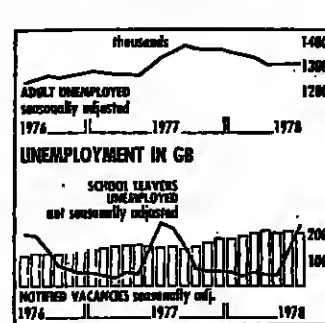
The figures increase the puzzle over what is actually happening in the jobs market. Given the depressed state of the economy until recently, the moderate decline during earlier months in the number of people without work has itself been difficult to explain. Reaction in Whitehall to the downward trend has been guarded, with officials concluding only that unemployment may be on a plateau, or 'possibly falling gently', after almost tripling in four years. This remains the general interpretation even after the latest figures.

They disclose an increase in adult unemployment of 5,000, after seasonal adjustment, when the count was taken in July 6. On this basis, the adult total stands at 1,310,000, or 5.6 per cent of the workforce.

The crude total, before allowance is made for seasonal fluctuations and including school leavers, rose by much more, increasing 131,000, to 1,512,000. There was a further 73,000 people without work in Northern Ireland.

The reason for the sharp jump in the crude total this month is the influx on to the register of large numbers of school leavers. About 93,000 of these joined the register in the 21st month. A similar number registered the previous month when the summer influx began. However, there are some indications that the underlying situation might still be improving. To begin with the number of school leavers this year is higher than a year ago, while the number registered as unemployed is down.

The economy would thus appear to be absorbing more people. At the same time, the rise in the jobless this month seems to result almost wholly from a rise in the number of females registered.



as unemployed. There was actually a fall in male unemployment.

This might simply be a reflection of the fact that many more women now register than used to be the case. In recent years, changes have taken place which could be making a full national insurance contribution. Unemployment benefit was then forfeited.

This change means that there is now a strong financial incentive to register. Also, there has been a steady rise in the flow of people joining and leaving the register. This provides a further indication that the jobs market is becoming more buoyant.

It is also possible that the rise in unemployment this month results from a rundown in some of the Government's special job measures before new schemes are fully working.

Mr Albert Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, said yesterday that he did not believe that the latest figures meant an end to the gentle decrease in the number of jobless.

He said that more school leavers would join the register next month, and he thought it would be September before the youth opportunities programme helped to improve the position.

The problem brought about by school leavers seeking jobs each year would continue for another four years. "The problem will not disappear overnight," Mr Booth said. "In fact, over the next few years it will intensify."

Adult unemployment has fallen some 68,000 since last September, and until this month had been falling on average at about 8,000 a month.

Over the same period, the number of notified vacancies has risen 64,000, after seasonal adjustments, although there was a fall of 6,000 vacancies this month.



All smiles: Mr Vance (left), Mr Kamel and Mr Dayan before the Middle East peace talks began at Leeds Castle yesterday.

Leeds Castle talks start well despite difference of opinion

By David Spanier

Diplomatic Correspondent

The Middle East talks made a purposeful start at Leeds Castle in Kent yesterday, in spite of a distinct difference of opinion between the Israeli and Egyptian spokesmen on the nature of the meeting.

Mr Naftali Lavie, the Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman, told the press after the opening session that he would "certainly characterize the meeting as direct negotiations" between Israel and Egypt.

For Mr Hemdi Nada, the Egyptian spokesman, yesterday's talks were merely preliminary. "We are here at the invitation of the United States which is making an effort to get the talks started again,"

he said. "When we find encouraging elements, direct negotiations may start again."

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the terminology, however, it was evident that the opening session, which lasted three and a half hours, was marked by serious and thorough discussions, according to the American summings-up.

After a brief introduction from Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, both Mr Moshe Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, and Mr Muhammad Ibrahim Kamel, his Egyptian opposite number, set out their peace proposals.

It was a very open discussion, the Americans said, with a real exploration of the issues, and just about evenly balanced.

It appears that nothing at all new was said. The American intention was to encourage a discussion of the objectives and essential elements in the proposals of each side, in order to identify and narrow the areas of difference.

Replies to press questions, Mr Nada said he thought the gap was still very wide. "We are still waiting for a more positive response from the Israelis to our initiatives and our proposals," he said, maintaining a guarded line. Mr Lavie, the Israeli spokesman who unlike Mr Nada attended the morning session throughout, gave a much more positive reading of the talks and said they were hopeful of bridging the gap.

The ministers continued their meeting for two hours in the afternoon in the same serious spirit. The talks will end today.

Earlier Mr Dayan had criticized the British security arrangements as being "far overdone". It was absolutely unacceptable, he said, speaking before the start of the meeting yesterday, that they had not met at the Churchill Hotel in London, as planned. "But it's enough for me to deal with security in Israel," he added.

His recent meeting in Salzburg with Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Opposition leader, was not aimed at creating division inside Israel. "My visit to Jerusalem" he added, "was the acme of love. It was motivated by love and not by hate and bitterness, as are several Israeli leaders." — Agency France-Press.

Damascus: Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, has expressed scepticism about the success of the talks in Kent.

After a surprise one-and-a-half hour meeting with Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman, he said he believed a settlement should involve the Palestinians. — Reuters.

Israeli Cabinet storm, page 8

Mr Smith says blacks 'failed to deliver'

From Frederick Cleary

Salisbury, July 18

In the course of an attack on the Anglo-American proposal for an all-party conference on Rhodesia, Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, said today his black colleagues in the transitional Government had failed "to deliver the goods", in terms of ending the internal war.

He had done all he could about arranging cooperation with the security forces; it was up to them to produce results. "So far it is the white part of our community which has given concessions and has been waiting for the *quid pro quo* we have been led to expect," he said.

Mr Smith virtually ruled out the all-party conference. "It would be disastrous," under present circumstances, "to be set at a televised press conference."

The transitional Government would go to such talks only if it thought they had some chance of achieving a breakthrough in the present constitutional impasse.

He accused the Anglo-American negotiators of flitting with the Patriotic Front. Their present plans appeared to mean banding over government to the Patriotic Front politicians and the security forces to the Patriotic Front. "It would be madness to attend a conference under such circumstances," he said. "It would be disastrous for Rhodesia to walk into that sort of trap."

He said that British treachery had led Rhodesia down after the Kissinger agreement in September, 1976, when Rhodesia had accepted majority rule in exchange for an end to the war and a halt to economic sanctions.

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"We will be happy to look elsewhere, anywhere, for a solution and we have said that. If by going anywhere we can see a breakthrough, then we will go," he said. He would not accept, however, that Rhodesia should agree to attend just to improve the country's image abroad.

The interim Government was a going concern. Its functioning could be halted, however, if it agreed to go to a conference. Evidence before him was that such a conference was almost certain to fail.

Although he was disappointed by the lack of progress in ending the war, he hoped headway would be made soon. The new constitution was nearly ready and would be considered by the interim Government within the next three weeks. There would then be the promised referendum for whites on the constitution, which would be followed by the "one man one vote" general election leading to the establishment of the new black state.

Questioned about the pending court case on sanctions-breaking currency, Mr Smith said six people, including two civil servants and a former member of Parliament were implicated. The amount of money involved could amount to about £1m, but this figure could increase as more information came to light.

Flexible moderation as pay guideline

After talks between the TUC and Mr Callaghan and senior ministers there was a clear impression that there will be another round of wage incomes policy within a framework of flexible moderation. The Government will not get formal TUC support for any rigid figure. The Prime Minister told the Commons that the biggest benefit from the Bonn economic summit was that protectionism had been evicted.

Pages 2, 6, 21

EEC farm policy costs attacked

Mr Joel Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, has criticized the disproportionate share of the EEC's budgetary resources consumed by the common agricultural policy. At a meeting in Brussels of EEC budget ministers he recommended that in future an annual ceiling should be set on farm spending. Agriculture will take two-thirds of the 1979 draft budget.

French warning on airbus work

Mr Joel Le Theule, French Minister of Transport, said that Britain would be involved in production of a new version of the European airbus only if British Airways decided to buy it. He said Britain could not on the one hand order Boeing 737s for BA and still expect a share in the airbus programme.

Export licences hint on engines

Export licences for the four jet engines of the Chilean Air Force blocked by Rolls-Royce workers at East Kilbride since 1974 will be issued soon, the Prime Minister hinted in the Commons. But there are clearly no plans to remove the engines against union wishes.

Korchnoi draws with Karpov

Anatoly Karpov, the Soviet world chess champion, and Viktor Korchnoi, his Russian challenger, who now lives in Switzerland, drew their first match at Baguio, Philippines. The draw, proposed by Karpov, ended a draw game on the eighteenth move. It began on time only after a replacement chess set was brought from 150 miles away.

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Record profit for British Gas

British Gas yesterday announced a record profit for the year to March 31 of £180m, nearly double the previous best. But prices are likely to rise next year with service charges for appliances going up even sooner. Off-peak electricity charges are to be reduced by a fifth from October 1.

Blockade stops Dieppe sailings

French seamen have blockaded Dieppe harbour, halting all sailings in a protest that will continue throughout today. They object to one lorry lorry to Britain by a steamship company, arguing that the Sealink service will suffer.

No Olympics at Los Angeles

Los Angeles are to withdraw their offer to stage the Olympic Games in 1984, after the International Olympic Committee rejected the city's plan to have a citizens' committee accept financial responsibility for them instead of the taxpayers.

Crime victims: The father of a girl who was murdered in 1969 has called for more aid for victims of crime.

Tory denial: The Shadow Cabinet members have supported Mrs Thatcher's denial that there would be a confrontation between the Conservative government and the unions.

Nicosia: Co-leader of Eoka-B appears in court accused of plotting to overthrow President Kyprianou.

Kahuli: Two months after Afghanistan coup, curfew stays in new regime struggles to impose authority.

in sentencing policy: Dr Tony Smith on the falling birth rate.

Business News: The FT index fell 6.9 to 472.4 on light but persistent selling on a report in The Times of Government plans to extend control over dividends after the present curbs run out on July 31.

Financial Editor: A harder line on dividends: British Gas is ignoring the Hyde guidelines; Imperial Eastwood up against the monopolies muddle; English Property: second thoughts.

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US retaliation likely over journalists' trial

From David Cross

Washington, July 18

The United States today deplored the slander verdict by a Soviet court on two American correspondents working in Moscow and was considering retaliation.

A State Department spokesman said the Administration was watching the case very closely, had been in contact with the two newspapers concerned and was "now considering what steps came next."

Today's court decision against Mr Craig Whitney, Moscow correspondent of The New York Times, and Mr Hal Piper, of the Baltimore Sun, has implications for other American journalists trying to do their jobs in the Soviet Union, he said.

The spokesman would not say what steps the Administration might take, but these are most likely to be moves against European journalists working in the United States. Cancellation of a proposed computer sale to Tass, the Soviet news agency, is another possibility.

The two American journalists were expecting today's verdict, which imposed legal costs totalling 2,289 roubles (£1,760) and required their newspapers to publish retractions. The articles in the Soviet Union on July 28—AP and UPI.

Retraction ordered, page 9

Leading article, page 17

Mr Carter's America keeps faith with God

By Peter Nichols

President Carter can fairly claim—and no doubt would with pleasure—primacy for the United States among all the most industrialised countries in the field of religious belief.

More than 150 million of the 216 million inhabitants of the United States believe in God, a proportion comfortably ahead of every other country represented at the Bonn summit and, in world terms, beaten only by India. The Americans also hold a firm lead in terms of belief that God observes our individual actions and rewards or punishes people for what they do.

Moreover, among the 60 million Americans who do not go to church, more than two thirds say they nevertheless believe in the resurrection of Christ.

The figures come from the latest surveys conducted by the Gallup organization, better known for its political opinion polls.

Inspirer of this religious element is Mr George Gallup, son of the founder, whose forthcoming report on "The Unchurched Americans" is supported by 30 religious groups and denominations.

A second new departure was the setting-up last year of the Princeton Religion Research Centre. Mr Gallup is one director; the other is Sister Miriam Murphy, of Notre Dame, a sociologist.

The object of the non-denominational centre is described as getting a better understanding of the nature and depth of religious commitment.

Continued on page 8, col 6

Government steers clear of clash with Lords

By Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent

Westminster

The potential constitutional clash with the House of Lords over the Scotland Bill has been avoided at the eleventh hour. The Government has bowed to the pressure of the parliamentary timetable and to opponents of the devolution Bill and accepted well over the 239 amendments to the legislation made in the Upper Chamber.

As the debates got under way on the last day yesterday of Commons consideration of Lords amendments, 87 changes out of 139 reached had already been agreed.

The Bill returns to the House of Lords on Thursday, and although it is expected that opposition peers will make one more stand with emphasis on

matters still not debated in the Commons, there is no likelihood of a serious delay. The emphatic majority, 208, in the Commons against a system of proportional representation for election to the Scottish assembly has effectively eroded the position of enthusiasts in the Lords.

Stronger grounds for resistance remain, however, on the controversial issue of Scottish MPs at Westminster voting on measures relating only to English affairs after the setting up of the assembly.

On Monday the Lords amendment attempting to resolve that matter was rejected only after the Deputy Speaker had cast his vote, according to precedent, against the amendment after a tied vote—286 to 286. The Lords are certain

to argue that the Commons should have another opportunity to debate the matter because of the even balance of opinion.

One of the most significant successes for the changes made to the Bill in the Lords came yesterday when the matter was decided on a free vote, upheld by 282 to 148 the decision to remove powers from the Scottish assembly to change the law on free vote on both sides of the House, Mr Bruce Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, urged that the amendment should be rejected and that the Commons should be allowed to control its own abortion legislation.

When the Commons voted in January, during the Bill's committee stage on that same issue, the move to delete abortion

from matters to be devolved was defeated by 179 to 162. At that time there was no free vote.

Several ministers voted yesterday against the Government's recommendation.

Among the more important amendments accepted by the Lords were ones that improve the scrutiny of assembly Bills by the Secretary of State and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and would require a six weeks' period between the date of the referendum order and the day which it is held. The Government has also accepted that the assembly will no longer have powers to determine the terms and conditions of service of medical and dental practitioners, pharmacists and opticians.

Parliamentary report, page 6

Ford inquiry into scuffles involving Asians at plant

By Donald Macintyre

Ford is to make a full inquiry into an incident in which a supervisor had to be escorted from work after being surrounded by about twenty Asian workers. Scuffles involving the employees took place early yesterday at the company's assembly plant at Dagenham, Essex.

An Asian worker was beaten by four white men on Saturday night on his way home from a discotheque at Chadwell Heath, about two miles from the Ford factory.

Tension at the plant was heightened by the fact that the man, Mr Suryakant Patel, had earlier been involved in an angry exchange of words with his supervisor during Friday's night shift on the Cordina assembly line.

Ford management was at pains last night to emphasize

that there was absolutely no evidence of a connection between the beating-up, which detectives are investigating, and the Friday incident at the factory.

At a series of meetings recently the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs has protested about alleged violence between shop-floor workers and supervisors.

Yesterday's incident at the plant came after a walk-out earlier this week by several hundred day shift workers to attend demonstrations in the East End of London protesting at violence against Asians.

About two hundred mainly Asian workers attended a meeting in the factory canteen yesterday, at which both the incidents involving Mr Patel and the violence in the East End were discussed.

Father banned from seeing artificial insemination boy

The father of a baby born after the artificial insemination of a girl to whom the man agreed to pay £3,000, was told by the Court of Appeal yesterday that he could not see his son again.

The court allowed an appeal by Miss C against a High Court decision last month giving the father access to the boy. Mr Justice Ormrod said that the father's access to the child was essential to his future happiness that he should have his own child. But "access would only perpetuate the most artificial situation".

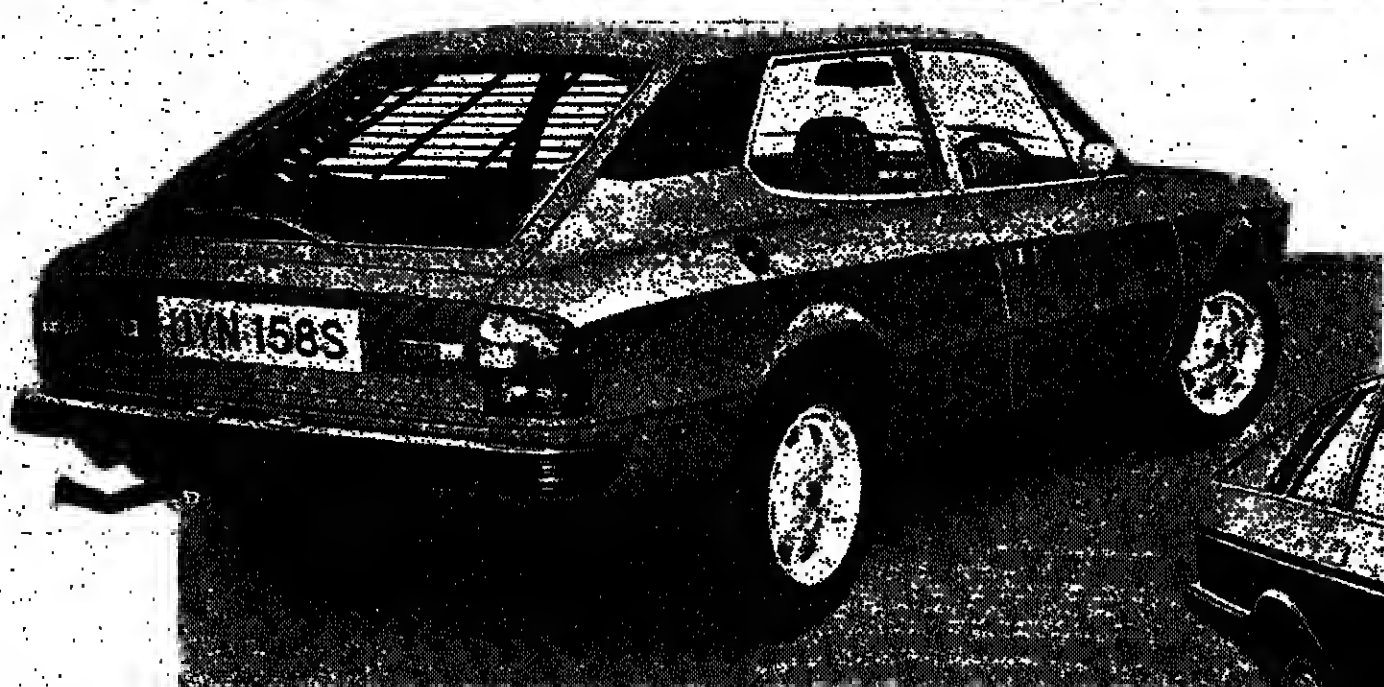
After the birth in June last year Miss C, aged 21, refused

to hand over the baby. She also refused to take the £3,000, and the situation should never have happened. Irresponsibility had been shown by all concerned, including the person who performed the insemination. It was a sad and miserable story.

He said that the fact that Mr A was the father of the child was important, but the main question was whether access was in the child's best interests. The best thing would be that the child should become a member of a family, just like any other child.

"Given a reasonable chance", he added, "Miss C will marry and the child will have a normal family life. It is almost inconceivable that this child can ever be handed over to the father. So what is the good of keeping going this wholly artificial, painful life?"

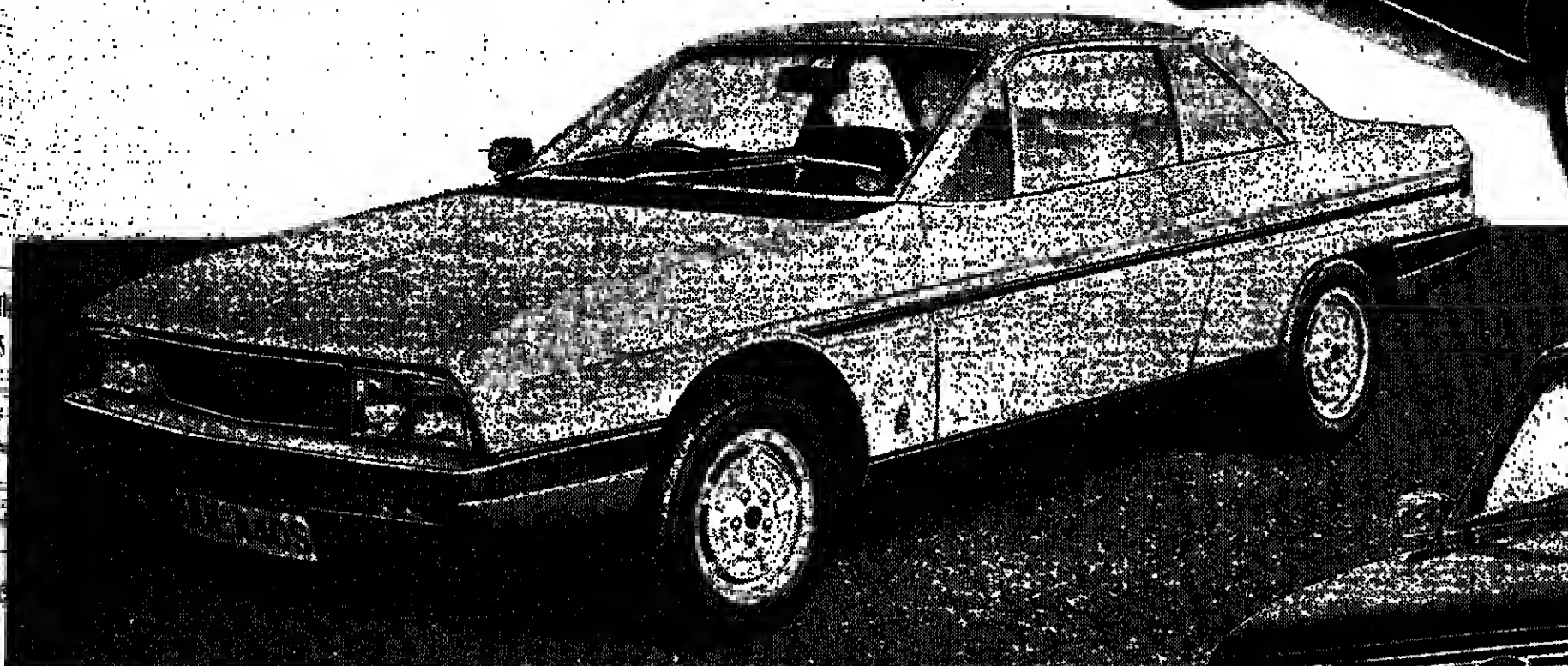
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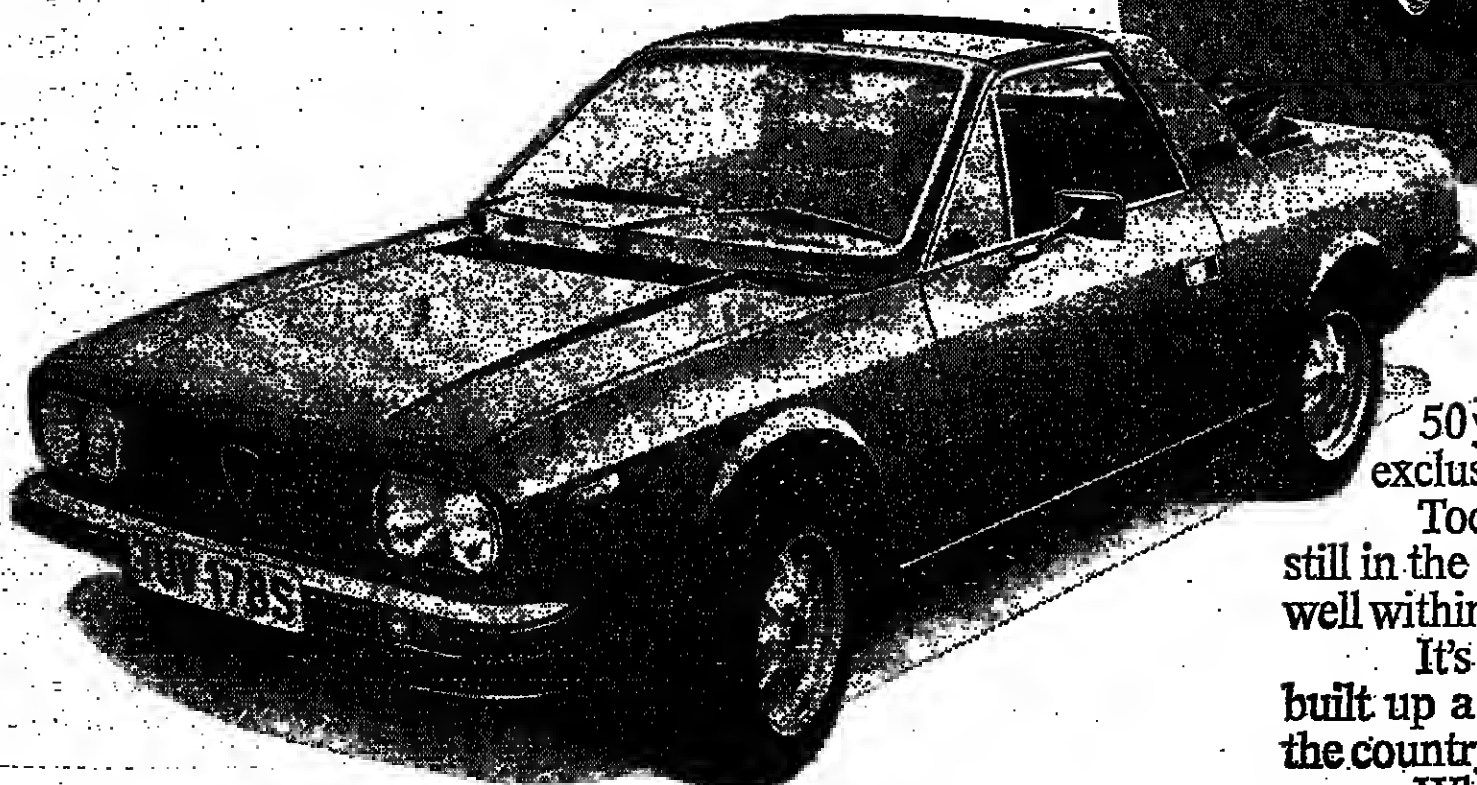
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HOME NEWS

Government will issue export licences for 'black' engines soon

By Peter Hennessy

The Government has decided to issue export licences for the return to the Chilean Air Force of four jet engines, "black" since 1974 by Rolls-Royce workers at East Kilbride, Strathclyde.

The Prime Minister confirmed yesterday that legally the engines belonged to Chile, but he sought to restrict the Government's role to the granting of licences, a move that would be announced shortly by Mr Edmund Leach, Secretary of State for Trade.

Mr Callaghan told the Commons: "They were sent here for repair and now they are due to be returned, as the repairs have been made. That is the legal position and the Government does not come into the matter."

The Cabinet has not made any contingency plans for the possible removal of the engines against the wishes of the unions. There is every indication that workers at East Kilbride will sustain their blockade mounted in protest at the overthrow of the government of President Allende in 1973.

Asked yesterday whether the engines would continue to be blacked, Mr John Henry, de-

puty general secretary of the Scottish TUC, replied: "That will be a decision taken by the Rolls-Royce workers. I imagine that the blacking would still stand."

The matter was discussed last week by the Cabinet's Defence and Overseas Policy Committee. Ministers were told by Mr Samuel Silkin, QC, Attorney General, that the Government had no alternative under international law but to issue export licences. Any other course might amount to theft of another government's property, as the work was carried out under contract and had been paid for.

The Government's view is that the matter must be resolved between the contracting parties, the Chilean Government, Rolls-Royce, and Hawker Siddeley Aviation, which supplied the Hawker Hunter fighters in which the engines were installed.

Aircraft of that type were used to attack the presidential palace in Santiago on the day of the Allende assassination. In the past the Chilean Government has threatened to sue its British contractors. Workers at East Kilbride have refused to amend their decision in spite of a ruling in the Scottish courts that the engines should be released.

Second fire in Belfast prisons to be investigated

From David Nicholson-Lord Belfast

Prison authorities believe it is unlikely that there is any connection between yesterday's fire in a hut at the Maze prison, near Belfast, and the campaign to secure political status for convicted terrorists.

The fire broke out in the morning in a corrugated iron hut used to store wood chopped by prisoners. No one was injured and the staff extinguished it in half an hour.

A detailed investigation is to be made into its causes in the light of Sunday's fire in a laundry at Crumlin Road prison, Belfast, which followed the discovery of bomb-making materials there two weeks ago.

The fire broke out in the morning in a corrugated iron hut used to store wood chopped by prisoners. No one was injured and the staff extinguished it in half an hour.

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Leading Tories deny clash with unions

By Our Political Staff

Two leading members of the Shadow Cabinet have reinforced the view of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, that there will be no confrontation between a Conservative government and the trade unions.

Sir Keith Joseph, spokesman on industry, and Mr James Prior, spokesman on employment, in separate interviews with Trade Union News, a publication for Conservative trade unionists, dismiss such prophecies as distractions from reality.

The economic policies of a Tory government with lower taxes, a cut in government spending and more jobs as its objective will appeal to trade unionists, according to Sir Keith, who had overall responsibility for policy and research.

Responding to forecasts by Mr David Barnett, chairman of the TUC, and Mrs Marie Paterson, president of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, of "battles" and "industrial warfare" with a Conservative government, Mr Prior said those claims were "phony".

That development imposed considerable responsibilities on union leaders, since industrial anarchy presented as great a threat to union members as it did to the industry employing them.

No experienced industrialist underestimates the size of this problem for union leaders. They have only one sanction which they can use to control their members, and that is the power to withhold union membership from those who break union rules or agreements.

"It is a power that, used unfairly, could justly be criticized as tyrannical, but it is a power that they have to employ when dealing with groups of union members who persistently ignore the livelihoods of their fellows by totally irresponsible behaviour."

Earlier, Sir Richard said that all national newspapers were represented by the NPA for the first time for many years. That

As it did not propose a statutory income policy, the circumstances that led to defiance of the law by the National Union of Mineworkers in 1973-74 would not arise again.

"The restoration of the word 'confrontation' is a political device to distract the people of this country from the reality", he states. A Conservative package would be based on getting rid of inflation, cutting taxes and cutting government spending.

Responding to forecasts by Mr David Barnett, chairman of the TUC, and Mrs Marie Paterson, president of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, of "battles" and "industrial warfare" with a Conservative government, Mr Prior said those claims were "phony".

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"The Conservative Party has worked with the unions in and out of government and will continue to do so. In private, every trade union leader will admit there is no reason why they should not work perfectly satisfactorily with the Conservative Party", he said.

In public they agreed they would have to work with a democratically elected government. When they suggested that that would be difficult, that was when they spoke as party politicians rather than great organizations whose membership was not particularly interested in party politics.

In the last resort the Conservatives would have to legislate on the closed shop because the public would demand it, but they had confidence that a code

of practice would work more effectively. Land poll: Nearly three people out of four oppose the Labour Party's National Executive Committee's plan, a British Market Research Bureau poll says today (the Press Association reports).

The poll commissioned by the Country Landowners' Association as part of the bureau's regular consumer survey interviewed more than two thousand people.

Of the people interviewed, 73 per cent opposed state acquisition of agricultural land, 72 per cent thought it was important for a free society that agricultural land should be privately owned, and 65 per cent said the beauty of the countryside would suffer if agricultural land was nationalized.

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The Mirror group had rejoined for a limited period to see if there was a chance of working out a coherent policy on marketing and technical problems, he said.

Mirror Group Newspapers has rejoined the NPA at a time when another big popular news paper company, News International, publisher of The Sun and News of the World, has given notice that it intends to leave.

Newsday award: The winner of this year's award as Community national newsboy/news girl of the year was Mark Riding, of Bramhall, Stockport.

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Passenger told to see drivers sober

Car passengers should

Car passengers should ensure that their drivers are sober, Mr Justice said in the High Court today. He ruled that a man who was injured in a crash was liable for his injuries if he allowed himself to be driven by a friend who he knew was drinking.

As a result he cut from the £134,115 damages awarded Mr Edric Ros Buckingham, of Clere Close, Penworth, Shire.

Mr Buckingham had been fined to a wheelchair accident in 1975, when returning home from the theatre.

The judge said Mr I. Ros Buckingham, 34, of Clere Close, Penworth, Shire, had been drinking at the time of the crash.

Passengers have to take for their own safety, he was satisfied that Mr I. Ros Buckingham, who was 16 at the time, knew that his friend was drinking.

If they had been on a road, he would have awarded even more damages for the drinking had been a factor in the crash.

He gave judgment £107,292 against Mr I. Ros Buckingham, who had admitted liability for the crash on the basis of contributory negligence.

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Expansion of London's airports 'is essential'

By Trevor Fishlock

The growth of air travel means that there will have to be expansion of airports around London during the next ten years, the British Airports Authority said yesterday.

"Certainly we need new capacity to handle the traffic and a decision must be made soon to that effect," said Mr. Norman Payne, the authority's chairman, said.

He added that the authority welcomed the government White Paper on airport policy. It provided a framework for airport development. But the Paper's proposals in regard to airport development in the south-east of England were unrealistic, he argued.

"Our main concern is for the longer-term development of airports in the South-east. We have recommended to the Government that it sets up, as soon as possible, an airports policy

advisory council on which all concerned with, or affected by, airport development should be represented." Mr Payne said that the question of the third London airport would be decided by the authority in January. By then there would be more information available about the growth of traffic, especially as it is affected by stand-by fares and the development of tourism.

The authority, which operates seven major airports, had a pre-tax profit in 1977-78 of £24.3m, according to its annual report. This was mainly due to increased revenue from shops, restaurants and car parks which rose by 73 per cent to £53.3m on an increase of only 2 per cent in passenger numbers.

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Changes made in women's exhibition

By Ian Bradley

Workmen will today finish alterations to the Government's commemorative exhibition in Westminster Hall on the fifteenth anniversary of equal voting rights for women. The changes were ordered after complaints about political bias.

Lady Birk, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of the Environment, ordered the changes after Conservative MPs had complained that the impression was given

that only Labour women mattered in politics. A portrait of Mrs Thatcher is being given a more prominent place. Mr George Younger, Conservative MP for Ayr, complained that Lady Birk's portrait was "tucked away as though she was nobody".

As a result of Mr Younger's representations, a panel on Women in Government is being retitled to make clear that it showed only Labour members. Additional panels are being

introduced to portray Miss Betty Harvie-Anderson, a Conservative, the first woman Deputy Speaker in the House of Commons, and Lady Megan Lloyd-George, a more prominent Conservative, also being given a picture of Lady Astor.

Another new panel is being introduced after Rear Admiral Morgan-Giles, Conservative MP for Winchester, had complained that insufficient attention was paid to women in the Armed Forces.

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Princess sees air crash

From Our Correspondent

Princess Alexandra stepped on board a Royal Navy helicopter yesterday noon after watching another helicopter crash into the sea with three people on board.

The Princess was about to leave HMS Devonshire, the 5,000-ton destroyer, which she launched 17 years ago and which she had been visiting at Portsmouth on the ship's families day.

About 800 friends and relatives of the ship's company were watching a demonstration of helicopter manoeuvres when they saw a Wessex anti-submarine helicopter hovering less than 100ft above the surface fall into the sea.

Another naval helicopter waiting to give a demonstration winched all three of the crew to safety and dropped them at the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslemere, for treatment. They were discharged later.

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Estate agents and a solicitor are jailed

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Right across industry, firms like yours are finding that there's a man who is helping them make production improvements and cost savings worth millions of pounds every year. He's highly qualified, has tremendous research and technological resources behind him and is well versed in the best production processes being used.

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course, efficient and controllable energy in a highly refined form. Even where fossil fuels are in use, electricity can improve their efficiency through sophisticated electronic control equipment.

Making better use of electricity, so as to save energy, is what the Electricity Industry is helping Britain achieve. Just one example: we have an exhibition now touring the country demonstrating heat recovery techniques. The exhibition shows how in five industries - paper, textiles, ceramics, non-ferrous metals and plastics - cost savings can be made by using electrical know-how.

We also practise what we preach. Most of our electricity is produced in modern, high performance

power stations. We burn low-grade coal and residual fuel oil - and with increasing efficiency too. By improving our system thermal efficiency - that is, producing more and more units of electricity from less and less coal and oil - we have saved literally millions of tonnes of fuel and have saved millions of pounds as well!

We also have nuclear power which is making a growing contribution to the nation's energy needs, and supplies around 15 per cent of all our electricity.

To get free advice on better use of energy, simply contact your Electricity Board. Your business will rapidly feel the benefit.

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HOME NEWS

Museum of Costume Delegated to Sement

Philip Howard

Provision has arisen about the museum to relocate one of the collection of old costumes to the basement. The museum of Costume was set up by Mrs Doris Langley who in the 1920s had her own fashion business. She was an important historical documents. She accumulated a vast and collection, stretching back to the earliest Elizabethan cost. She was alive, a complete in silver dress, the and the Albanian that Byron wore for a famous portrait. In 1963 she presented her collection of costumes to the City of London. The collection, which was in the basement, are in John Wood's temporary Card Room on the ground floor. In the basement are rooms to every aspect of the museum. The collection is from a room full of year to the most modern as. Many other clothes have been given to the museum. Last year it had 200,000 visitors and a turnover of £70,000, with more from souvenirs. Langley Moore, who has been in charge of the museum, said: "Many of these clothes are of art, the like of which you can find nowhere else. It is a pity that so much time is spent on one costume. There is so much more to tell us about the life of the past than just the clothes." National Trust, which the Assembly Rooms, and City Council, which owns the museum, have decided to move and redecorate the museum. The new museum, which is being built in the basement, will be a new building, and the whole Museum of Costume will be moved to a new building. The original plan to build a new building for the museum was rejected by the City Council. The new building, which is being built in the basement, will be a new building, and the whole Museum of Costume will be moved to a new building.

Tax cuts 'best policy for the arts'

By Kenneth Gossling

The public should be allowed to choose how much it spends on cultural activities, the Selsdon Group, the Conservative right-wing pressure group, says in an arts policy paper.

Mr David Alexander, author of the group's brief, published on the eve of today's Conservative Party conference on the arts, advocates tax cuts as the best policy. "Indeed the only policy necessary", for the arts. "If there are prizes for political masochism, at least one should be awarded to Mr Norman St John-Stevens, Conservative spokesman on the arts, for

his call for a more powerful arts lobby", he says. Such a lobby, Mr Alexander argues, would be principally interested in money, to be extracted from the taxpayer, to power and in the promotion of political ideas.

"Just as broadcasting has attracted many articulate people wishing to alter society, so subsidized art will increasingly attract those with political axes to grind who view the taxpayer as the source of funds for things which the public will not finance."

The growth of subsidy means that the providers of the arts tend to become less interested

in the public and more interested in courting those who hand over the subsidies, he says, and for their part the public become more reluctant to pay the full cost of artistic activities to which they know they are contributing through taxation.

Tax cuts would mean that the mass patronage possible in a middle-income society could become a reality, the paper says in rejecting the Redcliffe-Maud conclusion that local councils should become, in the long term, the chief arts patrons.

A Policy for the Arts: Just Cut Taxes (Selsdon Group Brief 17, 170 Sloane Street, London SW1 9QG, 30p).

Opponents of £50m plan for roundabout seek inquiry

By Our Planning Reporter

Residents and political groups in Hammersmith are to seek a public inquiry into London Transport's £50m plan to develop a four-acre site in the middle of Hammersmith Broadway. The scheme, which includes 600,000 sq ft of offices, was given outline permission by the council's planning committee.

The site has been blighted for many years by uncertainty over road proposals and difficulties of access, as it is surrounded by one of the busiest traffic roundabouts in Britain. In addition to a huge circular office block, the project envisages a new bus and underground interchange and a public roof garden, surrounded by shops, cafes, an public houses. Parking will be provided for 500 cars.

Subject to final approval,

work will begin at the end of next year. Buildings on the site will be progressively demolished, although the frontage of Bradmore House, about which conservationists have expressed concern, will be dismantled and stored for possible re-erection elsewhere. Councilors of all three parties are known to have reservations, although on Monday there was only one dissenting vote. Opponents say that a public exhibition last year was inadequately publicized and did not convey the scale of the redevelopment.

One local group, People Before Profit, said last night that in an area saturated by nearly a million square feet of new office development, the need was for workshops and small industries, which would generate local employment.

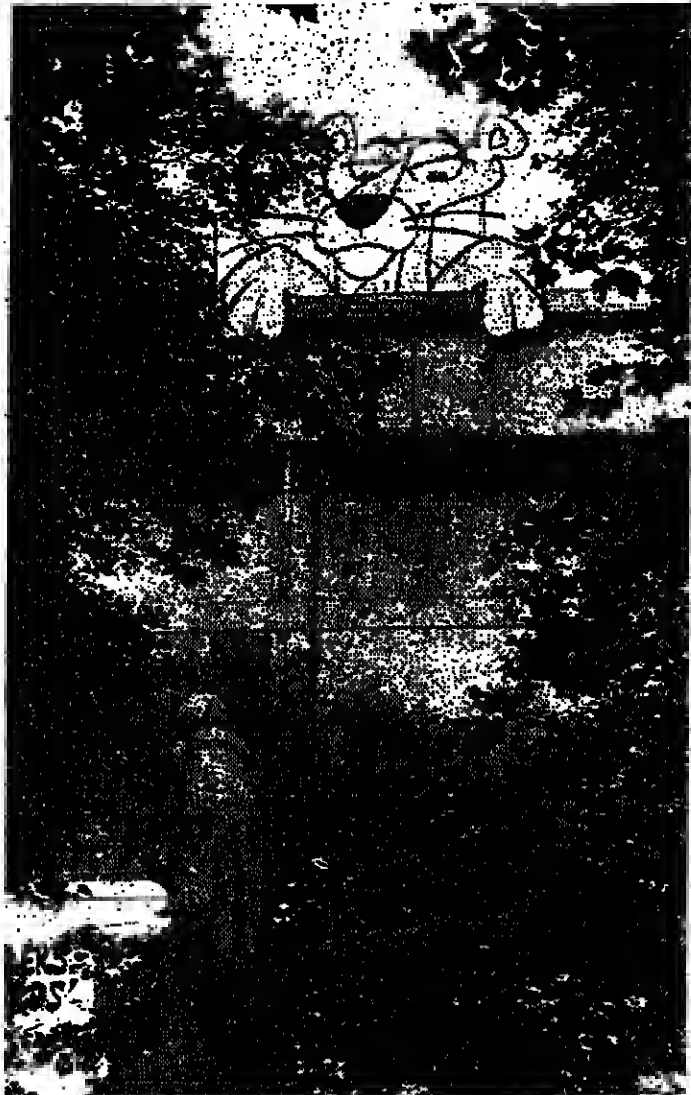
Wellington Barracks to be rebuilt

By Our Defence Correspondent

The Government is in rebuild Wellington Barracks in London. A £3m contract to restore the facade of the historic Guards headquarters in Birdcage Walk is in hand. The rebuilding plan was estimated at more than £10m six years ago.

Mr Robert Brown, Under-Secretary of State for the Army, said that the rebuilding would be spread over the years up to 1984.

The barracks, built in 1834, will then house a battalion of foot guards, three regimental bands and some headquarters staff. The foot guards headquarters should be able to return to the barracks when the facade block is completed in 1981.



The Pink Panther casting an appraising eye, from the roof of a London cinema showing his latest adventures, on Shakespeare's statue in Leicester Square.

Cheaper electricity but gas may cost more

By Nicholas Hirst

Energy Correspondent

Off-peak electricity charges will be reduced by a fifth from October 1, the Electricity Council announced yesterday; but gas prices are likely to go up next year and service charges for gas appliances may rise even sooner.

The cut in off-peak electricity charges comes after sharp increases in the cost of electricity since the oil crisis of 1973. It has been made possible by increased efficiency in the running of the new larger power stations in the supply of low night-time demand.

According to Sir Francis Tomba, chairman of the Electricity Council, the new household tariff could reduce winter-quarter bills by about a tenth for many homes using off-peak central heating. Unlike the present "white meter" tariff used for off-peak electricity, the new scheme, called Economy 7, will give the off-peak charge for seven, not eight, hours. A few customers may not find the change worth while, but no one will be forced to change.

Gas prices will have been held for two years next April, but despite requests for another year of freeze from the

National Gas Consumer Council they are likely to rise after that.

At a press-conference on the annual report and accounts of British Gas yesterday, the chairman, Sir Denis Rooke, said: "It is unlikely that we could peg our prices for another year."

The last rise by the gas corporation was of 10 per cent in April, 1977, to assist the Government in negotiations over its application for a loan from the International Monetary Fund.

Partly as a result of that increase the corporation last year made a record profit of £180m before tax, but since then supplies from the North Sea have become more expensive as the dearer Frigg field has come on stream.

Mr B. C. Smith, board member for marketing, said: "Where service charges are concerned with safety we keep them low, but we believe other charges should be realistic. It looks as though we could go to the Price Commission for a rise in service charges before going for a general rise in gas price. We are talking to the gas consumer council and seeing what sort of a package we can put together."

£180m gas profit, page 21
Financial Editor, page 23

Bridge death charge

A man is to appear before magistrates at Reading, Berkshire, today, charged with the murder of Mrs Carol Minge, aged 24, who was found fatally injured below a railway bridge at Reading, early yesterday.

Decree for actress

Cheryl Murray, aged 25, the actress, who appears in the television series Coronation Street, was granted a decree nisi in London yesterday against her husband, Ian, of Croydon Road, Wallington, London.

Ten years for IRA man in arms plot case

Seamus McCollum, said to have run a bogus company for the Provisional IRA, was sentenced at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin yesterday to 10 years' imprisonment for conspiring with others to import arms and ammunition into the Republic of Ireland and for being a member of the Provisional IRA. He had pleaded not guilty.

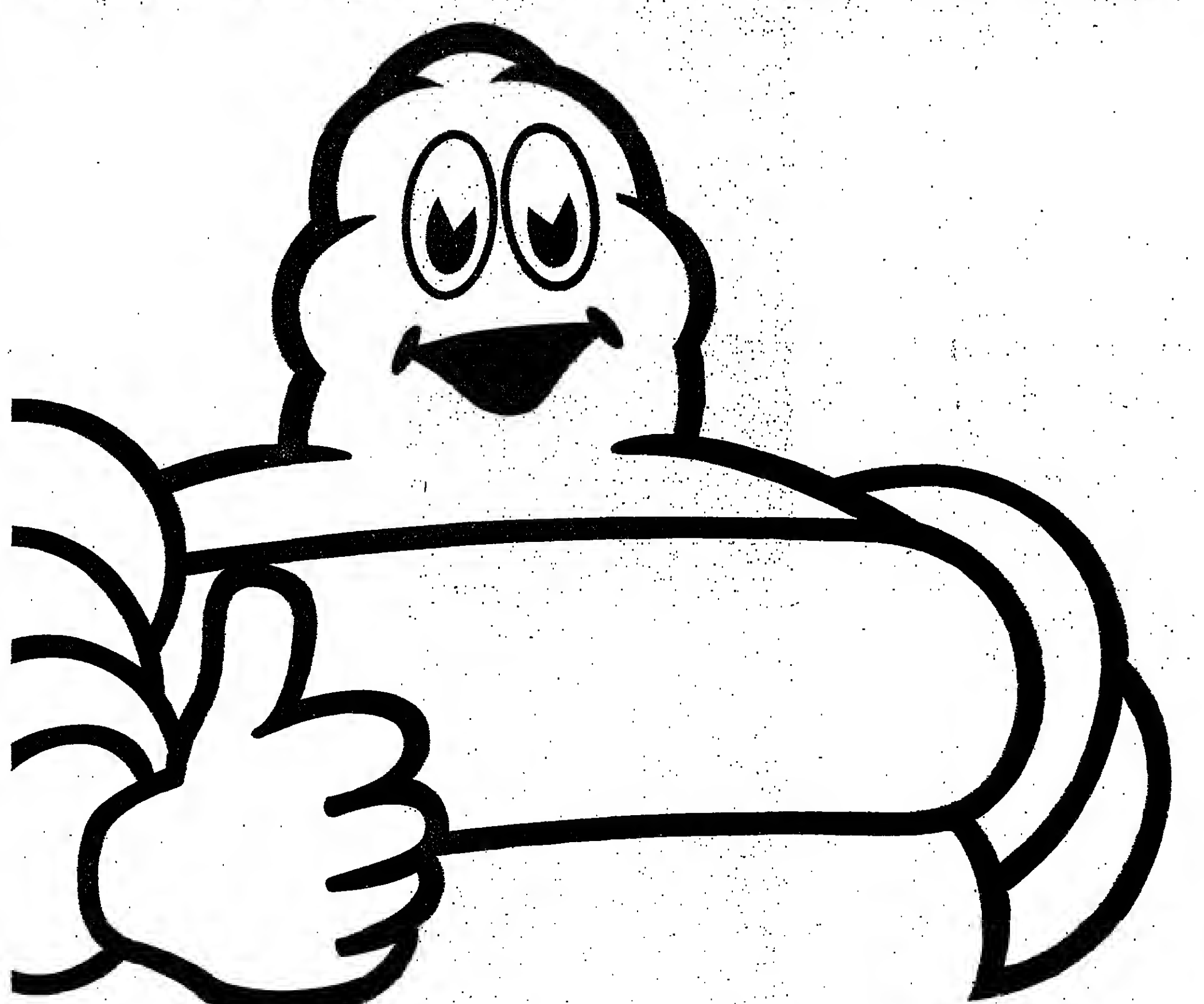
Mr R. Tuck to rest

Mr Raphael Tuck, Labour MP for Watford since 1964, has been told to rest after suffering a slight relapse after a heart attack two years ago. Mr Tuck, who is 68, said yesterday that he had been told to go away for two weeks but he hoped to stay on at the Commons.

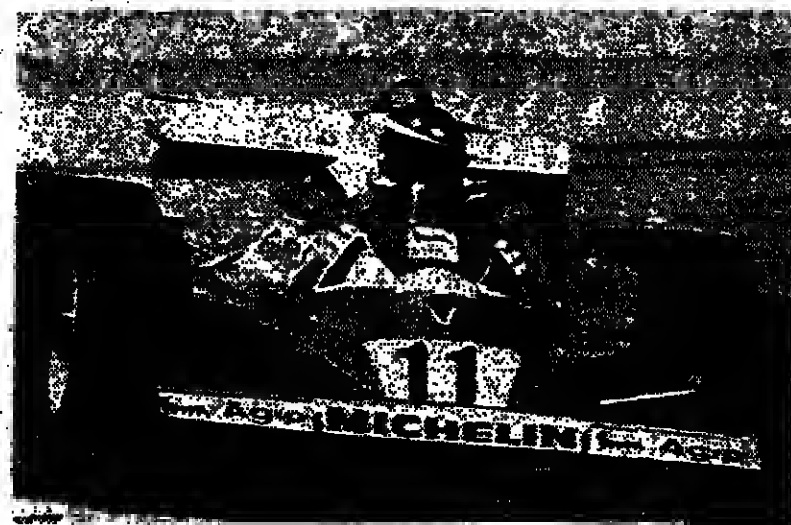
Heroin seized

Customs officers and Scotland Yard drug squad officers have seized 3½ lb of heroin, worth about £350,000 on the black market, in a raid on a house in Earls Court Square, Kensington.

Ferrari switched to Michelin and won the British Grand Prix.



Ferrari made the switch to Michelin. For better performance. And they got it. Why don't you make the switch? Switch to Michelin.



Carlos Reutemann in Sunday's winning Ferrari.

Curator guard stole £9,000 'for charity'

Security guard admitted he had stolen £9,000 from the Museum of Costume, in Sandbury, Wiltshire, when he appeared at the Crown Court yesterday.

Archibald Campbell, 50, of Prospect Way, Bantock, told the police that he wanted to give the money to a charity. He denied doing anything wrong. Mr Campbell said he had taken the money from the museum's safe and had given it to a charity. He had taken the money from the museum's safe and had given it to a charity. He had taken the money from the museum's safe and had given it to a charity.

rivers urged to save fuel using throttle gently

Drivers can save up to £50 a year in petrol by more economical driving techniques, Mr Cunningham, Under-Secretary of State for Energy, said today. He was taking part in a demonstration of economy driving at the Transport and Research Laboratory at Harrogate, Yorkshire.

Testing cars over a prescribed route, Mr Cunningham and Mr John Horam, Under-Secretary of State for Transport, demonstrated that miles to the gallon could be improved by up to a half by driving gently. Dr Cunningham said that in 1974, when petrol prices rose rapidly, interest in economical driving had grown, but as prices increased moderated it had waned. The need to use petrol as efficiently as possible was as great as in 1974.

P hopes for in Europe

Jasper More, aged 70, Conservative MP for Ludlow, announced that he is hoping to stand for the European Parliament next year. Mr More, who has been MP for Ludlow since 1960, is retiring from Westminster. He said today that he wants to be considered for the seat representing Salop and West Staffordshire.

No action against journalist

The Director of Public Prosecutions has decided that there is insufficient evidence to prosecute Mr Derek Humphry, the former journalist of The Sunday Times who maintained that he had helped his cancer-stricken wife to kill herself. Mr Tony Hetherington, QC, the DPP, has written to Mr Humphry's solicitor and to Wiltshire police, who made an investigation after Mr Humphry had written a book about his wife's illness.

WEST EUROPE

Mr Barnett criticizes cost of EEC farm policy

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, July 18

The disproportionate share of the EEC budgetary resources consumed by the common agricultural policy (CAP) came in for scathing criticism here today from Mr Joel Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury. He recommended that in future an annual ceiling should be set on farm spending.

Speaking at a meeting of EEC budget ministers, Mr Barnett said that "given the huge rural of agricultural expenditure and the proportion it represents of the total budget, the prospect of it continuing to grow in real terms is completely unacceptable."

Each year, Mr Barnett said, it was agreed by all that agricultural spending was too high, and yet each year the EEC was faced with another big increase, and the percentage of the budget taken by agriculture remained constant at about 70 per cent.

A forecast prepared by the European Commission had shown that if the cost of supporting farmers' prices continued to grow as it had in the past, it would rise by 19 per cent in 1980 and a further 14 per cent in 1981. This compared with an assumed general rate of inflation in the EEC of about six per cent.

Mr Barnett said Britain could only give its approval to the agricultural appropriations in the draft of the 1979 budget now under discussion on the understanding that action will be taken to bring about a substantial reduction in the cost of the CAP in 1980 and future years.

In their first reading of the draft budget tonight, Mr Barnett and his colleagues cut the proposed expenditure back to about £8,700m, but this figure is certain to be changed again before the budget is finally adopted in December.

The only way a big reduction could be achieved in the cost of the CAP, Mr Barnett said, would be to freeze the support price of surplus products until the surpluses disappeared.

These surpluses, Mr Barnett said, had more than merely budgetary implications. They gave rise "in many cases to a transfer of resources away from the less prosperous areas of the Community to the more prosperous, and thus actually work against the objective of economic convergence."

British denunciations of the inequity of the CAP are a regular feature of EEC meetings. But Mr Barnett's statement, apart from being couched in unusually temperate terms, has an enhanced political importance in view of Britain's reservations about the proposed new EEC currency stabilization scheme.

At the Bremen summit meeting earlier this month, at which the Franco-German currency scheme received broad endorsement, Mr James Callaghan, the Prime Minister, made clear that British participation would depend in a large part on action to redistribute wealth more fairly within the EEC.

Breton rebel claims to be dissident in France

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, July 18

After a day of procedural wrangles, the trial of 14 Breton autonomists charged with plotting to resort to "violent actions of a symbolic character."

"These have never been directed against persons. What is an offence is a vehicle destroyed by a car, or a building destroyed by a bomb, or a military, sitting without a jury."

"We are nationalists, revolutionaries, and socialists," Jean-Marie Salomon, a 21-year-old teacher, told the court in French. Yesterday, two of the accused had tried to address the court in Breton demanding interpreters. This was refused on the ground that they had passed a French baccalaureate examination.

Drawing a parallel with the Moscow trials, he said: "We are dissidents of the French state. That is why we are dragged before a court of exception. We are not French. We are only answerable to the Breton people."

He asserted that the refusal of the news media to report the standpoint of the autonomists and the stepping up of repression, had compelled them to resort to "violent actions of a symbolic character."

The president of the court suggested that tourism, which was attacked by M Salomon for taking up agricultural land, might be destructive. But he doubted whether all Bretons were hostile to it.

Serge Jolinsky, aged 31, a teacher, who is regarded as the leader of the group, said that the police who questioned him had tried to make out that he was a kind of Russian spy. He insisted that he had transmitted instructions to the group. The investigating magistrate's preparation of the case has revealed that the group were in contact with Breton activists in exile, presumably in Ireland.



Spaniards who oppose the Government's liberal reforms giving the fascist salute

Spanish fascist predicts violence

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, July 18

Señor Blas Piñar, the Spanish fascist leader, has commemorated the forty-second anniversary of the military uprising which brought General Franco to power with a prediction of more violence in Spain and an appeal to his followers to reject the proposed constitution.

Speaking at a rally in the main Madrid bullring last night, Señor Piñar told a crowd of about 25,000 that the present Spanish democracy "is only a front for vile and hard interests." He was interrupted frequently by frenzied shouts of "Euzkadi, Euzkadi" and "Franco, Franco, Franco."

Señor Piñar, who heads the far-right New Force Party, accused the Suárez Government of leading the country "down a path seeded with violence, and the violence is just beginning."

Bonn objection to British ban on herring fishing

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, July 18

The current chairman of the EEC agriculture ministers' council has warned Britain to respect the Community's regulations on fishing.

Herr Josef Ertl, the West German Minister of Food and Agriculture, was objecting to Britain's unilateral banning of herring fishing off the west coast of Scotland in order to conserve stocks.

In an interview with the West German economic news agency VWD, Herr Ertl pointed out that the step was taken only two weeks before the next meeting of the ministers of agriculture. He indicated that Britain could have waited until the ministers had a chance to discuss it, as required by Community procedure.

He said, however, that he was not out of "collaboration" with Britain in the ministerial council and was open to compromises. But he must insist that Britain respected the rules.

Herr Ertl has been highly critical of British fishing policies even before he became chairman of the agriculture ministers' council this month. There are deep differences of opinion between himself and Mr John Silkin, his British counterpart.

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Prince Sixto de Borbon Parma—who was expelled from Spain in 1976 as a result of an incident in which right-wing gunmen accompanying him killed supporters of Prince Carlos Hugo, his brother—received a warm round of applause as he took his seat beside other prominent rightists from Spain and abroad.

Signor Giorgio Almirante of the Italian Social Movement said that the significance of July 18 (the start of the Spanish Civil War) was that it marked the beginning of "the first and Marxist crusade in Europe." M Jean-Louis Trier Vignancourt of the New French Forces denounced terrorism as an arm of the Soviet intelligence services.

The only violent incident in connection with the rally was the stoning of a bus carrying Francoists back to their homes in another province. A stone

smashed the windshield of the bus on a Madrid motorway, slightly injuring the driver.

July 18 was not an official holiday today, for the first time since the civil war.

It was a working day too for Parliament, which continued its point-by-point debate of the working draft of a democratic constitution. The articles under discussion dealt with regional home rule, something which General Franco abhorred.

The debate got under way after a not entirely successful attempt last night by the two principal parties, the Centre Democratic Union and the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, to extract a promise from the Basque Nationalist Party not to oppose the constitution when it is submitted to the voters in a referendum.

The Basque continued to hold out for a greater degree of autonomy.

Three killed on school trip to France

Auch, July 18.—A teacher and two teenage pupils from Hutton Grammar School, Weston, were killed and four other pupils were injured today when their minibus and a lorry collided in south-west France.

Police named the dead as Mr John Stuart, aged 35, Carol Michael Tasker, aged 15, and Philip Scherry-Graham, aged 15.

They were killed instantly as the left side of the minibus was ripped off when it hit a tree at high speed after colliding with the lorry.

The injured, reported in serious condition, in hospital in Tarbes and Toulouse, were Richard Mercer, aged 15, John Graham Saunders, aged 15, Michael Charles Tinsley, aged 16, and David Downs, aged 15. Two other pupils, not named, were treated for minor injuries.

The accident occurred on a straight road at Barcugnan, near Mirande, as two minibuses from the school were heading for Tarbes. The cause of the collision has not yet been established.—AP.

San Marino attacks Soviet trials of dissidents

From Peter Nichols
Rome, July 18

The newly-installed San Marino Government, which is West Europe's only communist-ruled state, today made an auspicious start by calling on the republic's Parliament to approve a document criticising the recent trials of Soviet dissidents.

The Government was voted into office last night with a majority of one. It is drawn from Communists and Socialists and for the first time in 21 years the Christian Democrats are relegated to the opposition.

The document on dissidents calls on the captains-regent, the joint heads of state of the

tiny republic, to take such initiatives as are appropriate to allow full application of the Helsinki agreements on human rights, as a contribution towards the policy of détente and peaceful cooperation.

The captains-regent were asked to circulate this document among all governments which had signed the Helsinki agreements.

The new coalition supported the notion in its full strength of 31 votes. The Christian Democrats voted against the document. This decision will presumably discourage any hopes that the Communists may have of gradually drawing the Christian Democrats into the governmental area.

Seamen halt sailings at Dieppe

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, July 18

Officers and seamen belonging to the CGT and CFDT, the two main French trade union organisations, blockaded the entrance to Dieppe harbour today, and various sections of the harbour staff went on strike to protest against the opening of two new trucking links between France and Britain by the Schiaffino Steamship Company.

All sailings between Dieppe and Newhaven were interrupted. They will resume only on Thursday after the 48-hour stoppage decreed by the unions has been called off.

The seamen threw a cable across the entrance to the harbour from a jetty to a moored car ferry.

They believe that the two new lines will undermine the "Sealink" services, which have had a monopoly of traffic with Britain hitherto, and threaten jobs in Dieppe. The president of the local Chamber of Commerce, on the other hand, declared that far from threatening jobs, the opening of the new lines might create new traffic from the port.

The official opening of the Dieppe-Newhaven and Dieppe-Shoeburgh links today was thwarted temporarily. M Jean Chapon, the general secretary for the Merchant Navy, who received trade union representatives, said that the new lines would not undermine the "Sealink" service of the French railways.

Representatives of local organisations also told M Chapon that they regarded the future of the port of Dieppe as threatened. The local CGT branch condemned the policy of the local chamber of commerce and government, and expressed anxiety over the gradual disappearance of the banana trade, which provides 700 jobs and 70 per cent of the revenue of the port.

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OVERSEAS

Mr Weizman quick-tempered with slower colleagues over pace of Middle East peace negotiations

From Michael Knipe
Jerusalem, July 18

Mr Ezer Weizman, the Israeli Minister of Defence, ripped a poster inscribed with the word "peace" from the wall of an office in the Cabinet secretariat yesterday. The incident has been reported in the Israeli press and is being interpreted as a sign of the tension felt by Mr Weizman over the way the Middle East peace negotiations are being conducted.

According to the morning newspaper *Haaretz*, Mr Weizman tore up the poster and said he could not understand what the point was of having such a poster on the wall of a Cabinet office when the Government did not appear to want peace.

The Prime Minister's office has denied that Mr Weizman made such a comment. It said he expressed his disapproval of the poster in a joking fashion.

There is little doubt, however, that Mr Weizman's relationship with the rest of the Cabinet is again under strain after his meeting in Austria last week with President Sadat of Egypt.

Several ministers, including Mr Ariel Sharon, the Minister of Agriculture, believe Mr Weizman is being used by President Sadat to undermine the leadership of Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister.

At Sunday's Cabinet session they were sharply critical of Mr Weizman's visit to Austria and his approach to the negotiations with Egypt, which they consider to be too moderate.

Mr Weizman was taken aback by the ministerial criticism. He emphasized that his meeting with President Sadat had been agreed by the ministerial defence committee and approved by both Mr Begin and Mr Moshe Dayan, the Foreign Minister.

In spite of his words the Cabinet ruled that in future negotiations with the Egyptian Government must be conducted by representatives of the national standing. The location was clearly to establish that Mr Sadat wants to negotiate with Israel, he will have to do so through the Prime Minister and not with whichever minister he happens to prefer.

This decision is a blow to Mr Weizman who shares the belief, held by many that he has the best rapport with the Egyptian leader and is most likely to be able to reach an agreement. He emphasized that in his discussions with President Sadat, he did not deviate from the Government guidelines.

Mr Begin has plainly been influenced by Mr Sharon's argument that efforts are

being made from outside Israel as well as inside to undermine him.

It was reported today that, in an informal conversation with Knesset members in the Knesset cafeteria, Mr Begin remarked angrily on what he described as President Sadat's "chutzpah" ("cheek") in attempting to choose which members of the Israeli Government he would meet.

Another cause of Mr Weizman's annoyance is the fact that the Cabinet has decided to delay until next Sunday its discussion of the proposals brought back from President Sadat. He believes they deserve more urgent treatment.

It has not been disclosed what the proposals are, one suggestion is that President Sadat has proposed that Israel should make a demonstrative gesture, similar to its visit to Jerusalem, that would indicate the sincerity of its intentions.

The one he is said to have suggested is that Israel should withdraw from El Arish, the capital of Sinai and the main venue of further direct negotiations after the London conference.

To return for such a gesture, Egypt would undertake that no military forces would enter the El Arish enclave and that there would be taken up by the Egyptian civilian authorities.

Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary General, also warned the gathering against allowing Africa to become the scene of big power confrontation. He urged that OAU mediation bodies should resolve disputes.

Zaire and Angola have announced agreement on reopening the Benguela railway which carried copper from Zambia and Zaire to the Atlantic port of Lobito in Angola until it was closed in 1975.

The presidents of both countries are here for the summit and the OAU is to set up a commission to supervise a return to normal relations between the two neighbours and the repair and reopening of the railway.

Both were engaged in acrimonious exchanges in the opening days of the ministerial conference.

But conference sources said they detected a toning-down of rhetoric between the two.—Reuters.

Black jailed for sending love note

Johannesburg, July 18.—A black gardener who sent his white employer's daughter a love letter with a one-line note (about 80p) has been sent to prison for six months.

Sentencing Paul Moschwe, aged 24, in the northern Johannesburg suburb of Randburg, the magistrate, Mr J. van Rensburg said: "It is a disgrace for you to have done such a thing."

Paper plans barricades

Managua, July 18.—Owners of the Opposition Nicaragua newspaper *La Prensa*, the target of two attacks this week, have announced plans to put television cameras outside and build a stone wall round the building to thwart a "campaign orchestrated by journalists' elements close to the Government."

Plot sentence

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Hunger strike resumes

Korachi, July 18.—Pakistan's press unions said that members would resume a hunger strike, suspended in May, to support demands for the Government to press freedoms, the release of jailed journalists, and reinstatement of more than 25 dismissed journalists and other newspaper workers.

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Lagos, July 18.—At least 40 people were feared drowned when a canoe capsized in the middle of the Chailawa river in Northern Nigeria.

Niagara drought

Niagara Falls, July 18.—A drought in the area round the Niagara Falls has forced authorities to impose water restrictions in this Ontario resort.

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Mrs Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, is to begin a 10-day visit to China tomorrow.

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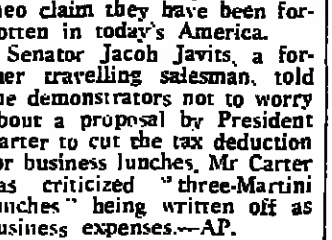
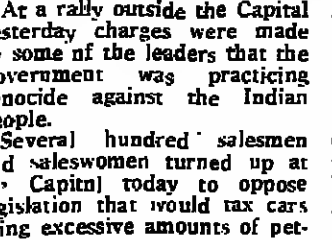
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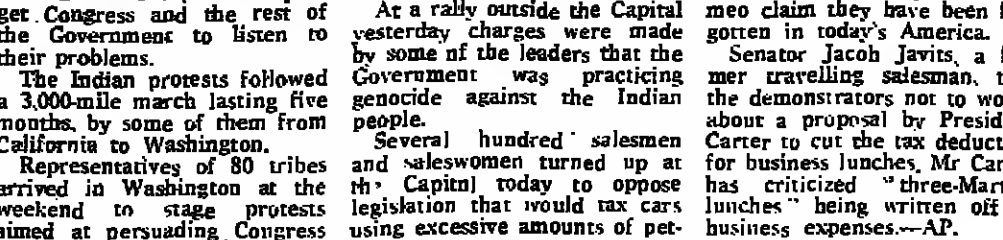
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villages.

The Indian protests followed a 3,000-mile march lasting five months, by some of them from California to Washington. Representatives of 80 tribes arrived in Washington at the weekend to stage protests continued at persuading Congress



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From Our Correspondent
Los Angeles, July 18

Under pressure from the mayor of Los Angeles and the two show business unions, the Actors' Equity and the Screen Actors' Guild, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce has said it will not next year recognize a singer giving a star on Hollywood Boulevard's "Walk of Fame" to the black singer and activist Paul Robeson.

The Chamber of Commerce was widely criticized last week when it turned down a request for the two unions for a posthumous award to Robeson, who died in 1967. Not since the chamber turned down Charlie Chaplin has such a spirited rebuff been waged. Chaplin was denied his star for 16 years but was finally given one in 1972.

Mr. William Herz, chairman of the chamber's selection committee, said Robeson had been rejected not because of his left beliefs—he lived in self-exile in Britain for a number of years

and his American passport was withheld for nine years during the height of America's anti-communist, witch-hunting era in the fifties—but because he did not do enough in his career to qualify for a spot on the boulevard.

"I don't think Mr. Robeson met the criteria. How many motion pictures did he make? How many records did he sell? How many Emmys did he win? How many Academy Awards? The 'Walk of Fame' is strictly a tourist attraction for the millions of tourists who throng the Hollywood Boulevard.

The assertion that Robeson failed to meet the Chamber's criteria is laughable because many of the people who already have stars are not exactly household names. Among the famous, such as Clark Gable and Gary Cooper, are the less famous, such as Al Sigmund Lubin, "Frazier Hux" and Helen Twibrees. The cinema god Rin Tin Tin even has his own star.

Medellin, Colombia, July 17.—Cuba again dominated the athletic events at the Central American and Caribbean Games here today, taking three gold and two silver medals. Roberto Salazar, a 20-year-old, set a record for the 100-meter dash with a time of 17.7 seconds, beating the record for the Games of 7.773 points, and his compatriot, Miguel Sotomayor, was second with 7.210.

Another Games record was broken in the shot put by 19-year-old Calvario de Cuba with a throw of 45.75 ft. The silver medal went to Nicolas Fernandez, another Cuban. In the women's events, Angela Carboell, also of Cuba, won the high jump with 5 ft 9 in. to break a record.

The honours in the 5,000-meter final went to Mexico and Colombia with Rodolfo Gomez, of Mexico, winning in 13 min 55.08 secs.

This England side may well turn themselves into a winning combination by the time they fly to West Germany at Hanover for their first match on September 1. But a spirited effort will be needed to equal the feat of the side who drew 0-0 with West Germany at Stussens Alres as they beat them.

The true test of skill and fitness will come in the two matches against the Netherlands at Bishop's Stortford on August 21 and 20. The visit of the Pakistan junior team during the same weekend adds interest to the occasion. The Pakistanis will play against the East under-21 side at Broxbourne and against the East under-19 side at Epsom and Ewell, and junior at Bishop's Stortford.

From Our Correspondent
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Under pressure from the mayor of Los Angeles and the show business unions, Actors' Equity and the Screen Actors' Guild, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce has said that next year it will reconsider giving a star on Walk of Fame Boulevard's "Walk of Fame" to the black singer and activist Paul Robeson.

The Chamber of Commerce was widely criticized last week when it turned down a request by the two unions for a star for the illustrious actor. Robeson, who died in 1966, Nat said the chamber turned down Charlie Chaplin has such a spirited behavior been waged. Chaplin was denied his star for 15 years but was finally given one in 1972.

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AMERICAN LEAGUE:		League:	Ranking
1. Yankees	2. Boston Red Sox	3. New York	4. Minnesota
5. Twins	6. Texas Rangers	7. Baltimore	8. Oakland
9. Chicago White Sox	10. Detroit	11. Cleveland	12. Philadelphia
13. California	14. Anaheim	15. Los Angeles	16. Seattle
17. Athletics	18. Toronto Blue Jays	19. Milwaukee	20. St. Louis
21. Cleveland Indians	22. Seattle Mariners	23. San Francisco	24. San Diego

NATIONAL LEAGUE:		League:	Ranking
1. Dodgers	2. Chicago Cubs	3. Atlanta	4. Pittsburgh
5. Braves	6. New York Mets	7. Los Angeles	8. San Francisco
9. Philadelphia	10. Philadelphia Phillies	11. San Diego	12. St. Louis
13. St. Louis Cardinals	14. St. Louis Cardinals	15. San Francisco	16. San Francisco
17. St. Louis Cardinals	18. St. Louis Cardinals	19. San Francisco	20. San Francisco

SPORT

Cricket

Amiss alters midday formality into an afternoon contest

By Jerome Caminada
COLCHESTER: Essex (19pts) beat Warwickshire (6) by 45 runs.
Essex did it but only just. Shortly after midday, victory for the home county seemed a formality; at 3.30 some people were beginning to wonder whether Warwickshire would turn the tables; at the close the contest was still slightly open. It was not until 5.20 that the tension was at last broken.

Warwickshire's resolute defence was built round a mischievous, flailing opener, the batsman carried his bat for 122 in a total of 273. He seemed as determined as Dennis, the former England batsman, of the opposing side, in demonstrating that he was not to be regarded merely as a figure of the past.

To the morning Essex added a muscular 66 in half an hour to their overnight total of 192 for one, and then declared at 258 for four. Dennis, 108 not out, was the only batsman to reach 100.

The visitors were left to 319 to win, in four and a quarter hours with the obligatory 20 overs added.

Amiss and Smith went to the wicket for Warwickshire. In his first over, Amiss bowled Smith and his helmet was sent back to the pavilion at 21 by Phillip, the quick West Indian who this time bowled with the help of a breeze from the far side of the ground.

At 28 Abernethy turned as if to pull Phillip, but ballooned a simple catch to the wicket. Kallikharau entered and was almost yanked first ball. The second ball brought an unsuccessful appeal for lb-w. The next over, Amiss bowled a fast, straight ball, and edged a catch to Fletcher in the slips. This made it 28 for three.

Whitehouse, the visiting captain, did not last long. Facing a fast ball from the river end, he turned a catch to the wicket. The left-handed Rouse came out and promptly hit about freely. Amiss again was fortunate, clipping a single to the boundary, and then hitting a four. Rouse took the score past 100, and then lifted a boundary to make the score 110. This made it 28 for four.

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knock ended, for Phillip came back and hit him lb-w. Amiss now found Hemmings to help him. As unashamed as Rouse had been, Hemmings hit two successive boundaries to set his half century; and Amiss at once followed with a cover-drive to reach his century in 60 overs, and 193 minutes. But just as Warwickshire supporters rounded the ground began to sit up. Hemmings tried to drive East and was bowled.

Three wickets now remained and tea came at 2.15 for Warwickshire. In the first over after refreshment, Brown tried to pull East, the former England batsman, of the opposing side, in demonstrating that he was not to be regarded merely as a figure of the past.

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Richards: the man opponents must get out.

Leicestershire rue the Witches of Brent

By Alan Gibson

TAUNTON: Somerset (18pts) beat Leicestershire (12pts) by 126 runs.
It was so easy again for Somerset to the end, and keeps them well up in the championship, although they must have been a little worried when, after being put in to bat, they lost six wickets for 44 in their first innings.

Richards, who was out for 59 as memorable as any century, and made sure of his century in the second innings, and when they had passed 200, with only four wickets down, in their second, were in commanding form.

giving proper credit to the bowling of Dredge, Jennings and Moseley, and also to a well-fielded fielding side, which was led by Richards, and my goodness, what a difference it would have made to the match. Jennings set his fields with great care, and nobody to the game is better at containing a batsman, but if you want to beat Somerset at present you have to get Richards out.

This reminds me of the problem which faced the English captains in the 1930s when they could always beat Australia, so long as they got Bradman out. Glamorgan will be pondering the Richards problem today. Nash, who hit a lot about the game, may have a plan.

Somerset batted on until they had scored 320, which was possibly excessive, as there was talk about Dredge and Jennings batted comfortably, and I suppose it was because Rose thought that the pitch must be easy, and was afraid of a rally by the Leicestershire batsmen, that he gave them so severe a proposition as 339 in 300 minutes.

After they Leicestershire went in, the ball suddenly seemed to hop, and creep, and boom. There had been no rain, but I felt that the Witches of Brent were at it again. You would hardly have believed that such a strong batting side could have been bowled out so

swiftly, or a pitch that had looked, in the morning, so dispiritingly flat. A Methodist minister from Bridgwater, a fervent Somerset supporter, was almost inclined to see in these events a new argument for the existence of God. God is of course, a Gloucestershire man. When four wickets were down for 25 before lunch, Leicestershire's hopes of victory had gone, although Clift, Brinkshaw, Illingworth and Shuttleworth in their various ways, prolonged the match.

SOMERSET: First Innings, 319 (1. V. A. Richards 59, D. Brinkshaw 56; 2. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 3. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 4. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 5. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 6. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 7. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 8. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 9. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 10. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 11. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 12. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 13. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 14. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 15. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 16. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 17. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 18. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 19. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 20. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 21. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 22. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 23. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 24. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 25. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 26. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 27. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 28. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 29. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 30. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 31. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 32. R. Nash 59, B. Taylor 44; 33. R. 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Horse show

A faultless round for the scenery in 'International Velvet' stakes

he has been so often before was inviolate.

Ten went clear originally, but Danesbury, without a rider, Croupier and only nine fought out the final. Paul Darragh was the brilliant Heather Honey pup up the best time of 37.15 seconds, but the second element of the final treble fell and left him in fourth place.

Ireland, in fact, were dogged by misfortune, for Boomerang being taken to the Mackintosh at the round. Both were unrun, but the jump-off lost some of its flavour without them.

Earlier, the Phillips Industries Stakes, won with the only clear round by Eva van Paesschen of Belgium, on Bouzicourt. At Madrid in the spring, Miss van Paesschen won the Grand Prix and behind here were several riders in joint second place.

Robert Oliver got off to a flying start in the following classes where he won the heavyweight cobbs title with "Kestrel" winning the Royal Show two weeks ago, at the expense of Muriel Bowen on the Royal Windsor winner, Cromwell.

But she has been the champion master of the Mid Devon Hound Jenny Loriston-Clarke, who won the bronze medal in last week's show with "Lampbrush" and the Goodwood, received an ovation when she came into the ring to give a display of dressage, a pageant, with David Hunt.

HORSE AND HOUND CUP: 1, Y. H. Kermans; 2, Y. H. Kermans; 3, Y. H. Kermans; 4, Y. H. Kermans; 5, Y. H. Kermans; 6, Y. H. Kermans; 7, Y. H. Kermans; 8, Y. H. Kermans; 9, Y. H. Kermans; 10, Y. H. Kermans; 11, Y. H. Kermans; 12, Y. H. Kermans; 13, Y. H. Kermans; 14, Y. H. Kermans; 15, Y. H. Kermans; 16, Y. H. Kermans; 17, Y. H. Kermans; 18, Y. H. Kermans; 19, Y. H. Kermans; 20, Y. H. Kermans; 21, Y. H. Kermans; 22, Y. H. Kermans; 23, Y. H. Kermans; 24, Y. H. Kermans; 25, Y. H. Kermans; 26, Y. H. Kermans; 27, Y. H. Kermans; 28, Y. H. Kermans; 29, Y. H. Kermans; 30, Y. H. Kermans; 31, Y. H. Kermans; 32, Y. H. Kermans; 33, Y. H. Kermans; 34, Y. H. Kermans; 35, Y. H. Kermans; 36, Y. H. Kermans; 37, Y. H. Kermans; 38, Y. H. Kermans; 39, Y. H. Kermans; 40, Y. H. Kermans; 41, Y. H. Kermans; 42, Y. H. Kermans; 43, Y. H. Kermans; 44, Y. H. Kermans; 45, Y. H. Kermans; 46, Y. H. Kermans; 47, Y. H. Kermans; 48, Y. H. Kermans; 49, Y. H. Kermans; 50, Y. H. Kermans; 51, Y. H. Kermans; 52, Y. H. 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on their first mount and it came true for Wynne Hayes. She was mounted on River Mahiva, held of Now Near This and Margot Sahm. In a close finish to the Friends of Fulkstone Amateur Riders' January 31 He-father, Michael Hayes, said, "She does three or four lots a day and is a much better way we had never ridden in public before."

Summer Snow not only won the Godfrey Evans Selling Snakes, but also created a course record when it won the 3,000 mile relay in 1991. Charles Nelson said, "The filly was due to run in the first week of the season but went on a stone lame herself and was sidelined for three months. She ran today."

Yachting

Yachts stay in top shape

yachting championships today in brilliant sunshine at this resort near Lisbon.

Block (Poland), 8 pts; J. Málnai and Bruckner (Austria), 6.7 pts; Fomin and Formishev (USSR), 6.7 pts; B. Kudryavtsov and Terekhin (USSR), 2 pts; Treves and Neelhi (Italy), 8 pts; A. Elgmann and Bohner (West Germany), 10 pts; Cheurenov and David (France), 10 pts; Abramson and Bechar (Israel), 10 pts; D. Zarrov and McLaughlin (USA), 22 pts; S. Lapid and G. Zeev (Palestine), 54 pts; J. Phillips and Phillips, 40 pts.

Reuter.

Poles reach for

Union by beating West Germany 9-4. In other early matches, Romania and Hungary drew 3-3, but the Romanians advanced because they outplayed their opponents 63-59.

The Romanians took the bronze medal by beating the East Germans 8-6. The Italians finished eighth after losing 9-1 to the Hungarians. —AP.

Belgians in fix

The best home riders were the professional Bayton, of Holdsworth Campagnolo, and Scotland's British amateur champion, Miller, equal tenth at 2 min 40 sec.

across the line inches ahead of Dirk Waeyenberg, Frank Hoste and Eric Van de Wiele, Viking's

[illegible]

field plummeted down to Leven for the finish. Second overall was Pevenage, eight seconds behind.

KING OF THE MOUNTAINS: R. Smith (Carnegie Helmsman), 30sec; 2. Netherland (Amateur), 59hr 45min 37sec; 3. Holdsworth (Carnegie), 59hr 45min 12sec; 4. Great Britain (Amateur), 59hr 45min 1sec.

e of ocean g

print in making yourself miserable for the sake of a few pounds extra", one competitor remarked, as he lowered a merrily chinking box into his dinghy.

Another told me that if only he had held his big genoa for another hour and headed in a different direction, he would not be where

he oven as a group of ravenous
allors; shouting to one another
bout span, shackles and pain.

boat's lack of success as being because she had beld too much sail for too long. The post mortems are endless and continue into the early hours. Boats will be drifting into Barra for several days yet unless the wind strengthens.

Wives and families, following the race by car and ferry, have probably as hard a time as the competitors themselves, organizing

acht Clob, and sponsored by The Observer, embraces all manner of yachts and yachtsmen. There are

temper clearly worn thin, told me: "I'm exhausted and he seems to have disappeared altogether." She added icily: "But I suppose he is having a super time."

ENTERTAINMENTS

when telephoning use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area.

OPERA AND BALLET

GLIS NATIONAL OPERA
Sings from July 20-28, 1978.
Sings from July 20-28, 1978.

THEATRES

HARRY ANDERSON
A New Play by RONALD HARWOOD
An admirable play, honest, well conceived, properly written, and, finally, properly acted. It is a play that should be seen by all.

THEATRES

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DON'T DREAM IT, SEE IT!
A new play by Philip Hayes Dean.

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SENTENCE TO LIFE

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THE ARTS



Sunset over Atlantis

Television and the Tower of Babel

And the word went out to all the television networks of the world: "Awards there shall be, of silver and gold. Send us your finest works." And lo, they did send them, the networks, and the judges were sore perplexed.

The international jury now locked into their daily deliberations at this week's festival of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts are not saying anything yet, but as the viewings reach their halfway mark it is clear that the official criterion "most original contribution to the art and technique of television" will often be extremely difficult to apply.

Difficult? May be sometimes impossible. What on earth will the non-Hungarian speakers among them make of György Fehér's version of *Richard III*? How much will A. Dvorak's "classical" tragedy *Sunset over Atlantis* mean to those unskilled judges not proficient in Czech? If there is one lesson which this festival has already rammed home it is that some works of art are simply not for export.

It did not matter that *Richard III* was delivered in an insistent monotone by a mesmerizing succession of faces in close-up, a helpful literary from which physical theatricality had been ruthlessly expunged. What did matter was the gulf which each play betrays a contemporary English subtitle and the soundtrack: the Hungarian text apparently represented "a new kind of poetry... broken, terse, muscular." Well, maybe. All that was provided for the Czech play was a commentary. Beautifully filmed, figures in ancient costume and modern make-up declaimed and emoted on a cardboard set. Character? Dramatic tension? The English pen falls from nervous fingers.

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The Yeomen of the Guard

Tower of London

John Higgins

Perhaps the guard needs changing at the Tower of London. Gilbert and Sullivan's belated, well-known service for the City of London Festival in the Sixties and here they are back again. The setting is sumptuous. This is scarcely the "wicked Tower" of Gilbert's script demanding its blood, but a friendly old weather-scared edifice with some pretty wooden scaffolding by courtesy of Peter Rice; the grass of the moat is neatly cropped; the moon rises punctually at the end of Act I.

But *The Yeoman of the Guard* again, with the scarlet inspiration. There was our Tommy back in his own East End. As he leapt on for "I have a song to sing, O!" why, he might have been about to launch into "I've got a handful of songs to sing you." He moves with grace, knows how to turn a fleet ankle and how to woe an audience if not a fair maid. His almost conversational style of singing put across the words. But there is one fatal flaw in the casting: Steele is an excellent singer, but a poor actor. Steele is an excellent singer, but a poor actor.

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The Tower, though, has an Elsie of considerable appeal in Laurence Livermore, a soprano who possesses a voice of smoothness and richness across the moat and who knew where the microphones were placed, a piece of information which escaped other members of the cast. Terry Jenkins, the Fairfax, delivered "Is life a boon", that exquisitely comic song, in a bumpy and unfeeling fashion and thereafter improved mightily. Tom McDoune's grave and well-focused Sir Richard Cholmondeley made one wish that G & S had given the Lieutenant of the Tower a larger hand in the production. The rest of the cast were routine.

Merryl was allotted a song often denied him, and stretches were left untouched, yet gave the music a new life. The overture under Alexander Faris. A strange affair.

The Yeoman runs for the next four weeks. Visitors are recommended to go for the low numbered seats for a view of the building and the moat. The rest of the cast were routine.

Achucarro

Wigmore Hall

Joan Chissell

Wigmore Hall's new summer festival continued on Monday with a piano recital by Joan Achucarro, who divided his programme between two closely linked nineteenth-century German, Schumann and his protégé, Brahms.

Mr Achucarro comes from Spain, and never let us forget it. Hot blood is, of course, better than cold. Yet discretion can sometimes prove the better part of valour with these two composers, neither of whom is given to romantic excesses.

Brahms's youthful F minor sonata came first. Mr Achucarro launched it vehemently at the prescribed Allegro though without enough of the qualifying maestoso. His ardour was welcome, although his first movement and Scherzo sounded too hard-driven. One or two accidents en route could easily have been avoided if bigger fences had not been rushed. Even the slow movement lacked its full, moonlit calm: the coda most notably needed more of the requested sostenuto. But always Mr Achucarro's heart was behind what he did. The intermezzo was truly nostalgic.

In this day and age it was a welcome change to hear Schumann's Etudes symphoniques played as the composer himself finally shaped them, which is to say without the rejected variations inserted here, there and everywhere. Again in this work Mr Achucarro was highly inflammable, for the most part (though not at the great moment of climax in the finale) bringing off the risks he took in bravura.

It was a pity that in excitement he sometimes grew over-enthusiastic, ignoring Schumann's carefully marked score dynamics (as notably in Etude 1) and even allowing legitimate fortissimo to grow stately. Nevertheless the theme itself was mellow, and the beautiful G sharp minor duet was another instance of his powers of persuasion which he brought to the second duet, too, he sang out the bass warmly and well in renates.

In Schumann's first Nocturne in F he avoided all danger of squariness with his little upward lurches and the rising triplet figure, and certainly played the big tune *con amore*.

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Ballet Rambert

Round House

John Percival

It was a pleasure to see Glen Tetley's *Embrace Tiger* back in Ballet Rambert's repertoire at the Round House on Monday. Created for the company in 1968, it suits their style to perfection and shows off the dancers admirably.

Morton Subotnik's electronic music which Tetley's accompaniment is called "Silver Apples of the Moon" but to me it sounds more like the noise of a jungle night: some loud, some quiet, but all with a faint menace. I should be surprised if some such idea was not in the choreographer's mind too, because the 10 dancers are constantly in a state of wary alertness.

The movement in this piece is based on the exercises of Tai-Chi, the Chinese art which was meant to bring serenity

Michael Church

and wisdom as well as skill in self-defence. Adopting a stylized range of gestures like this has given the ballet a strong structure in which the hints of abstract drama and the pure dance patterns reinforce each other's effect.

During the opening sequence, when all the dancers go through the complete Tai-Chi sequence at their own speeds, they seem to be trying to catch the eye for the conviction of their manner, with Yair Vardi prominent among them (the slowest of all, incidentally, but also the firmest).

Then, the warden had the advantage, especially Owen. Her legs cut the air like swords in the first solo, and she entirely dominates her four partners in the later slegro section. Daniela Lorez is good, too, in the final paired slow-motion duet with Zoltan Imre: and a newcomer, Rebecca Ham, made herself noticed with her soaring leaps.

Another revival on the same programme, Christopher Bruce's *For those who die as cattle* was a work by Twyla Tharp.

Michael Church

display his personality and his pure, fluid style. Assiduous ballet-goers will have seen it danced last week at the Coliseum by Nureyev and the Dutch National Ballet.

To argue which was the better performance is as pointless as trying to prove which is the greater operatic composer: Verdi or Mozart. Both are equally great and whether you prefer the exquisite polished formality of the Royal Ballet or the more dramatic and immediate performance of Nureyev and the Dutch is a matter of personal choice. Dorell gave ample proof of how much he shall miss him when he departs for American Ballet Theatre at the end of the season.

Injury brought a cast change to *The Firebird*, with Monica Mason stepping in to replace Ann Jenner. Mason is a strong and intelligent dancer, but I do not find her *Firebird* very satisfactory. There seems to be too much strength and not enough authority, and rather too much use of her eyes. She

Royal Ballet

Covent Garden

Judith Cruickshank

Safely home from foreign parts, the Royal Ballet chose a gentle hill to open the last leg of its season at the Royal Opera House. *Four Schumann Pieces*, the first item on the programme, was originally choreographed by Hans van Manen for Anthony Dowell, to

Exhibitions

NOTESPOU LTD. 11, Lonsdale St. SW1
English tapestries, 1600-1850, and 19th-century silk and wool. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

ROYAL EXCHANGE, BANK, E.C.1
Glass/Light
An exhibition of glass and light. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

SCIENCE MUSEUM, S. KEN
JOSIAN WEDGWOOD
Over 500 fascinating exhibits, his original work and portraits by Sir John Everett Millais and Sir John Lubbock. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

ROYAL INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW
Until this Sat. 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. Children 50p, adults 1.00. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. 50p.

La Bohème

Glyndebourne

John Higgins

"Not a Glyndebourne opera" is one of the oddest descriptions attached to *La Bohème* this year. Yet voices were raised in protest when its return to the Sussex repertoire was announced. Puccini's tale of winter love has turned into one of the greatest pleasures of a Glyndebourne summer already full of delights. This vocal symphony in four movements even splits the audience as he goes off to supper at the very moment when the Bohemians have finished eating at Alcide's expense.

The chief credit must go to the director, John Cox, who has made *Bohème* work in a way Sir Michael Redgrave failed to do when the production was first seen in the mid-Sixties. The cast is young, as William Mann pointed out after the first night, with Alberto Cupido, Rodolfo looking as though he had just stepped from the set of *Love Story* and Linda Zoghby's Mimi widening her eyes as she finds out that there is more to life than fashioning paper flowers alone in an attic. Cox's directorial hand is experienced and fast-

In at the Death

Bush

Irrving Wardle

Commissioned to turn out an instant show based on the week's news, you might suppose that any go-ahead group of writers would leap at the chance of telling us what Cyn Vance really said, or forcing the locked doors of Leeds Castle. But, alas for social relevance, dusty Hughes's tear: have settled for down-pipe stories on suicide, abortion, disaster and (most) death, culled from the small print of the *Telegraph* and *Anglesley Chronicle* and the *Edgaston Mercury*.

Ron Hutchinson, Ken Campbell, and Snob Wilson are the better known contributors and, while we find the Manxman's writing a little lacking in planning advice, from a lady who is scouring the shelves for *Vegetarianism and the One-Parent Family*. Had she coincided with the gathering at Wood would have walked away with the *Frost Programme*. As it is, she gets more fun and more poetry out of Manchester speech than I have heard for years. For actual language, however, the heavy compulsion to award the first place to Mr Hutchinson for a ruthless, last-minute exposure of the terror compensation racket in Belfast.

La Bohème

Glyndebourne

John Higgins

One or two touches may upset traditionalists. I miss the tree in Act III, and the ice-covered fountain is a substantial transformation of the toy-seller Pargapoul in the previous act into a harbinger of death, a spectre at the Café Momus feast, is a superb invention. But Cox plays few games with his audience: he leaves that to the Bohemians and they respond with a will.

For the final performances John Rawnsley has taken over the part of Marcello, turning him into the most responsible of the Bohemians except when Musetta crosses his path again. Then all thoughts of making a living by paint are cast aside. Rawnsley's bass-baritone rides Puccini's orchestral colouring easily in places where singers with lesser voices give up the contest. He has risen through the Glyndebourne chorus and appears set to go on upwards.

Nicholas Braithwaite, who has replaced Rawnsley as the most responsible of the Bohemians, has settled down with Puccini in a way to inspire regret that the Glyndebourne Touring Company, of which he is musical director, is not taking this fresh and affecting *Bohème* out on the road in the autumn.

The Times

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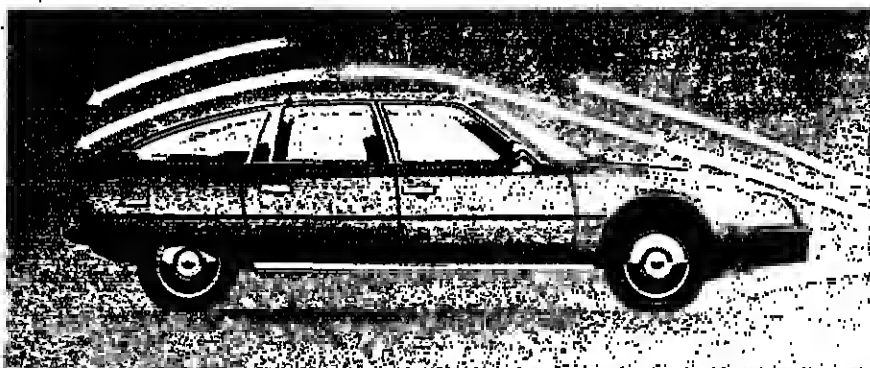
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DANGERS AVERTED IN BONN

When the Bonn summit was first called, it produced high hopes that it would generate a real degree of political will to tackle the existing world economic problems, concretely and in a spirit of international cooperation. In the past few weeks, however, it took place in a far less than ideal atmosphere. It had become established that the summit would not demonstrate a lack of political and intellectual leadership in the West, but it was facing problems that could be done to the system. If it did not deliver its high level of performance, it also managed to avoid disaster. For the heads of state and government successfully conveyed the impression that they were serious politicians, seriously worried about the problems they were facing, even if they were to operate within very narrow economic and domestic political limits.

The proof of the Bonn summit, however, does not lie in the communiqué. It will lie in the actions that the governments involved take, jointly and severally, over the next year. For, as the communiqué is in fact little more than a rehearsal of the programmes and intentions that the individual governments had at the meeting started. Thus President Carter went no further than

to repeat his already strong commitments to reduce the United States' excessive dependence on imported oil. His specific targets, however, remain no more than aspirations so long as the Congress declines to enact his energy programme. He was unable to go to Bonn with any hard indication of impending advance on that front.

Similar judgments apply to the other main components of the final Bonn agreement. Thus the Japanese Government has done little more in practice than to confirm its already made semi-pledge, semi-forecast about its growth rate for the current year. There is little in any case that could be done to affect the outcome of this twelve-month period. Mr Fukuda did not enter into any specific forward commitment on target growth rates for the Japanese economy. For his part, Chancellor Schmidt spoke of further German measures in August to increase economic expansion, but only if they seem appropriate when the time comes.

Minist specifically, the Bonn summit underlined the extreme difficulties still facing the international trade negotiations being conducted at Geneva, the so-called Tokyo Round. These negotiations are the last hope of stopping the international trading system from spiralling into mass protectionism in the 1980s. The communiqué was forced to conclude here that "some difficult and important issues remain unresolved". In the language of communiques, this is a frank admission of how little progress has been made.

On the positive side, however, the summit avoided the worst possible catastrophe. The danger was that, faced with proof of disunity, the whole system of cooperation would unravel, with America's allies losing faith in President Carter's ability to produce any effective energy policy, or sustain the dollar, with Japan and Germany in consequence giving up all responsibility as surplus countries for helping world economic expansion, and with the weaker economies leading an immediate and headlong rush into protection. These dangers have by no means been set aside for good. On the contrary, if the spirit of Bonn does not become translated into the effective action, which the assembled principals wanted but could not deliver, the forces tending towards self-destruction of the system will gather force during 1979. Bonn has successfully bought time, no less and no more.

MR MINTOFF'S DESIGN FOR MALTA'S NEW ERA

On March 31 next year Mr Dom Mintoff will lose his well-bruised dun-coloured, Britain's last military presence in Malta, unless, in a last furious work-out, he throws out a little ahead of the agreed date, as he is reported to be threatening to do. As the loss of this outlet for his feelings may have psychological repercussions, perhaps some sympathy should be felt for Mr Mintoff, but Britain's fund of goodwill towards Malta, which is still considerable, goes out to the Maltese people.

For what Mr Mintoff is quarrelling with Britain about is clearly what he is quarrelling with his opponents in Malta about—free speech, the right to criticize, comment and dissent. That is the reason why he closed his local British forces radio—frequently an action taken in revenge for comments by BBC correspondents which angered him, and the BBC's rejection of an ultimatum to publish the time Minister's rejoinder. That is why he has banned British journalists from the island. For he cannot control British comments in the way he controls, or seeks to control, all criticism or opposition to his policies and demands in Malta—and Mr Mintoff is put out by the mildest criticism.

In Malta the opposition press finds itself under severe harassment. Mr Mintoff's parliamentary opponents are dealt with in a number of ways that sufficiently disarm or mute them—perhaps not too hard a job. His way with the university has drawn the resignation in protest of Professor Dahrendorf, who was acting in an advisory capacity on Maltese higher education. Any criticism of the Maltese Government or the Malta Labour Party's way with critics draws the *tu quoque* that once the Church made it a mortal sin to vote for Mr Mintoff's party.

The particular offence of the British press is to take an interest in the Maltese Government's relationship with President Gaddafi of Libya. It was reported that Colonel Gaddafi, whose finger is in a lot of pies round the world, was dissatisfied with the consideration he was getting for supplying Malta with cheap oil. In March Mr Mintoff was reported to have announced in Abu Dhabi that Malta was part of the Arab world, a statement which, in the light of Malta's history, naturally attracted interest—though not very much. The fact remains that Mr Mintoff's opponents fear that when the British presence ends, and with it a support to Malta's balance of payments of about £15 million, Mr Mintoff will let Malta in some undesirable way to Libya.

In fact Mr Mintoff's policy for Malta's "new era" after liberation in 1979 from the British (and from their free press) is a guarantee of neutrality from France, Italy, Algeria and Libya. That seems harmless, since the island has little military value to anyone now. These countries seem uninterested, and the suggestion is that a notion of Mr Mintoff's that financial or economic aid ought to be part of this self-denying ordinance is one reason for this lack of interest. Or it may just be that Malta is not important.

But such a new era is important for the Maltese, many of whom cling to their ties with the European tradition. They do not find Colonel Gaddafi's pan-Arab zeal, or Mr Mintoff's increasing use of Marxist jargon, particularly representative of that tradition. It is sad to see Malta's democracy being eroded by a combination of legalistic restrictions and strong-arm intimidation. Economically, as the British press has regularly noted, Malta has done well under Mr Mintoff's management, even if some problems remain intractable. In the plan to make the island a Switzerland of the Mediterranean his Government has gone a commendable way. But a one-party state is quite another matter, and attempts to impose or institute one would be disastrous, and would undo all the good work in less contentious fields of social and economic reform.

MOSCOW MOVES AGAINST JOURNALISTS

The Soviet Government's action against the two American journalists is more abnormal than its persecution of dissidents. In the past it has often expelled uncomfortable western journalists, usually after warnings. This time it had the curious idea of constructing a civil court to charge them with slandering Soviet television because they quoted friends and relatives of Mr Zviad Gamsakhurdia, a Georgian dissident, as "suspecting that his alleged 'confession' had been asked. Yesterday the court bedecked found the journalists guilty and ordered them to pay costs and print retractions. Presumably the court or someone in the apparatus is aware that the correspondents have no authority to force their papers to print anything at all. Moreover, in a civilized gesture, the authorities allowed them to go home on holiday before the verdict, so they were safely out of the country. This effect is the same as an expulsion. So why did the authorities go through the motions of a court case?

One reason may be that the Helsinki Final Act contains a very specific section on improving working conditions for journalists. A veneer of legality may have looked like a way of getting around this. But the effect is still to serve notice on western journalists in Moscow that they must not even quote other people as doubting the truth of a Soviet television programme. Such a drastic limitation of ordinary journalistic practice is at least as much in breach of the Helsinki undertakings as a traditional expulsion.

Another motive may have been the desire to bring Mr Gamsakhurdia to court again and have him reaffirm that his confession was genuine. This could have been seen as a way of saving face or trying to persuade a Soviet audience to believe in the confession. But if the Soviet audience had already shown itself ready to believe doubts relayed back to it by western radio stations it would scarcely be any more convinced by the obviously forced reappearance of the baggard prisoner on Soviet television. If Soviet media want to win the confidence of their home audiences they will have to find other means, such as respecting truth.

Probably, therefore, we must disregard the method and merely assume that the Kremlin leaders have been sitting down and working out as many ways as possible of challenging Mr Carter, trying to show that he cannot do anything concrete to help dissidents, and telling him that he can have détente only on Soviet terms or not at all. These terms are that the Soviet Union's internal affairs are nobody else's business, that outside support for dissidents, or contacts with them, must cease, or that if any concessions are to be made in this field they must be sought in private and made more worthwhile to the Soviet leaders than they seem at present (for there are probably people in Moscow asking Mr Brezhnev what he has really got out of détente and whether he has not been far too conciliatory in the past). Mr Carter cannot accept these terms so the struggle will continue. Meanwhile the Soviet leaders should ask themselves two questions. Who really damages Soviet interests, the dissidents or the people who persecute them? And has anyone really thought out the consequences of making it impossible for western journalists to work in Moscow?

Fast nuclear reactor

From Professor J. Rotblat
Sir, I would be grateful if you would allow me to reply to Dr W. Marshall who, in a letter today, (July 12), alleges that I have made incorrect statements in my letter of June 20. I said there that the danger of proliferation of nuclear weapons, which would be greatly exacerbated by the fast breeder, is the reason for the Americans' decision to halt further development on their fast breeder, and for setting up the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation programme.

I am announcing today some of my decisions resulting from that review. I will restructure the United States breeder reactor programme to give greater priority to alternative designs of the breeder, and to defer the date when breeder reactors would be put into commercial use. . . . we will explore the establishment of an international nuclear fuel cycle evaluation programme aimed at developing alternative fuel cycles. . . . It is quite clear from this that what I said was correct. It will remain so despite Dr Marshall's attempts to obscure the truth by bringing in side issues. Yours faithfully, J. ROTBLAT, The Ashmolean, Fell Hall, SW1, July 12.

The argument in the Peak is about the application of long-term policies over the next two decades so mistakes made now may be rectified in the future. On Exmoor we are faced with the continued ploughing of the remaining stretches of moorland despite all the good intentions expressed after Lord Porchester's forthright report and recommendations for protecting it and compensating the farmers. These proposals were accepted in principle by the Government but they have failed to produce either new legislation or additional funds. Meanwhile another hundred acres have just been ploughed and more are being reclaimed despite the opposition of the Countryside Commission.

Exmoor is to be saved as a National Park. The Government must take positive action now. We are beyond the stage when pious hopes are all that are needed. GUY SOMERSET, Chairman, The Exmoor Society, Hoar Oak House, Alcombe, Minehead, Somerset, July 16.

Ploughing on Exmoor

From The Chairman of The Exmoor Society
Sir, It is not only the Peak District which is threatened by Government. (Letters July 15). Exmoor is also at risk and here the problem is much more immediate and direct.

English and American

From Professor Charles W. Dunn
Sir, I agree with Mr Burchfield of the Oxford English Dictionary as you report him and with your editorial of June 28, 1978, that English and American dialects will drift apart but will nevertheless be held together by cultural interchange. You do, however, ignore the subtleties of cultural reference. As one who was born in Britain but is now resident in the USA I would like to point out that your admirable correspondent Alan Gibson, whose interpretation of cricket I follow with respect, wrote in the same issue of The Times: "I am not sure why Boycott, however irritated he might be because Yorkshire's winning run has ended with his return, forewent the last ball. There are such things as no balls and run-outs. Never neglect the least opportunity, however improbable, as the philosopher Lecoq would say, with the merest lift of an eyebrow at the planter girls in the old garret in Limehouse."

Should doctors strike?

From Dr Michael Ryan
Sir, In his letter about industrial action in the Health Service, Professor Sir Denis Hill (July 10) asserts that "the medical profession took the lead in this" and refers to events which occurred in 1974. However, the reference to the DES Annual Report for 1974 reveals that industrial action was taken in the first half of the year by medical physics technicians and by limited numbers of nurses. Dissatisfaction with the level of their remuneration was also the reason for industrial action in hospital engineering and building supervisory staff. It was not until November 1974 that some consultants began a work to contract (on an unofficial basis in parts of the North of England).

Initial impact

From Dr J. R. de S. Honey
Sir, We are told that British Leyland now wishes to be known as "BL", and I notice that The Times itself now uses this style. The reason for this is the trademark of Morris Motors, BMC, Leyland and many other honoured names should choose such an abbreviation is itself unimagiavative, but it seems incredible that the company's advisers should have hit upon this particular pair of initials. One does not have to be a specialist in linguistics to know that in contemporary colloquial English the sound represented by the name of the letter L has a special significance as an unappreciated ex-

Henry Moore in the Park

From Mr Roy Miles
Sir, The organizers of the superb Henry Moore show in Kensington Gardens are to be loudly applauded. I am able to see our greatest sculptor's work in such a beautiful setting in one of London's most magnificent parks enriches the quality of life in this city. The stone statue by the bridge appears to have been there since the beginning of time, and I wonder if a fitting memorial to Henry Moore would be for it to remain there for ever? Yours faithfully, ROY MILES, 6 Duke Street, St James's, SW1, July 17.

Tottenham Herons

From Mrs D. B. Waterhouse
Sir, I hope that Mr Norman Atkinson (July 14) does not follow the advice of Mr Merlin Marshall in his letter of July 17, or he may find himself with more than he bargained for. Two years ago we placed a fibreglass model of a heron by our goldfish pond, and the next evening saw, as we thought, two models. A (presumably) male heron had come courting—necking would not be too strong a word—and he returned every evening until he finally realized he had been conned. Since then our beautiful model has given no protection at all. Yours faithfully, JESSIE WATERHOUSE, 15 Essex Villas, W8.

Red skies

From Mr Martin Reith
Sir, One evening last week my eight-year-old son Cameron asked me why the setting sun was a fiery red. Recapturing as much as I could from lectures in Edinburgh's Calton Hill Observatory some 25 years ago, I explained that most of the other colours of the spectrum would be filtered out by the greater amount of atmosphere which the sun's rays pass through at that angle. So the same is true at dawn? he said. I hesitated. The next morning I rose at half past four. Alas no dawn chorus (few birds here survive the fowling and the young lions with their airguns) and there was rather too much smoke in one quarter from a ship in harbour hit the previous day by older lions with bigger guns. Nevertheless a splendid sight, but not nearly enough said. I reported conscientiously to Cameron at breakfast table and suggested that the different temperatures of the morning and evening air might account for it. He looked sceptical.

Look to your moat

From Mrs E. N. Williamson
Sir, What pace progress? It is a sobering thought to find that, after 800 years or so of civilization and elaborate technology, security lies in a moated castle. Yours faithfully, HELEN WILLIAMSON, Pond Lye, Furrzeffeld Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

Supporting Soviet dissidents

From Lord Brockway
Sir, It is a tribute to The Times that on its leading feature page (July 17) it should print two articles urging opposite views on how to discourage the denial of human rights in the Soviet Union. Both Lord Chalfont and Raymond Fletcher, MP, acclaim human rights as the only way to bring about the end of the repression of thought is to mutilate the human personality and to contain human progress. I declined an invitation to go to the Soviet Union under Stalin. I accepted an invitation when Khrushchev denounced Stalin, I would decline an invitation now. But personal gestures of dissent do not mean that governments, in this imperfect world, should not maintain contacts. There are at least eighty governments in the world which deny human rights, some of them allies of the West, imprisoning dissidents without trial, often torturing them. Your own column, "Prisoners of Conscience", illustrates this. Protests against the treatment of Shcharansky, Ginzburg and Orlov are right, but to concentrate all attention on them is wrong when it is happening to other parts of the world is generally ignored. It suggests a political motivation utilizing the issue of human rights. Lord Chalfont suggests that defence of the dissidents in the Soviet Union should come before measures for détente. Raymond Fletcher argues that the methods of Willy Brandt in negotiation are the best. A view which the ex-Chancellor himself implied in a recent interview in The Times. I am an ally of the USA and Britain am proceeding with détente. It will prove the most effective method in the long run to secure the recognition of human rights. Sincerely yours, BROCKWAY, House of Lords, July 17.

Instability in Lebanon

From Dr J. M. Wober
Sir, Your second leader on "The Lebanese dilemma" (July 8) is surprisingly tolerant of Syria's behaviour in the Lebanon. It also involves an unconvincing assumption that the Maronite Christians would be satisfied "once the Palestinians and the left were defeated". For the Christians, the roots of their unstable existence lie with the Muslim majority; the only solution in a case such as this is of population exchange and political partition. The western powers generate a steady pressure on Israel, intensified by irruptions of open diplomacy to withdraw from territories occupied so as to yield a second partition of the Palestine region. The Turks vacated (into Israel-Palestine-Jordan). The sense of this is to respect demographic and cultural realities (since they will not peacefully respect each other). Locally, what is humane and politically feasible for Israel should be similarly so for Lebanon. If Western Christian countries want a new nation to be born from a rib

Preserving historic houses intact

From the President of the Historic Houses Association
Sir, The situation at Warwick, to which you referred to a recent leading article (July 17), is distressing to many, especially to those of us in the Historic Houses Association who are working to create conditions in which historic houses and their contents may be held together by their owners and shown to the public for the long-term benefit of the nation. It is, however, a reminder that owners of historic houses are unpaid custodians and there comes a point when economic and fiscal pressures outweigh the strong sense of moral responsibility which goes with ownership of a historic house. When this point is reached, the private owner indeed ceases to be an effective guardian of the heritage but, as you say yourself, what other alternative is there to private ownership? The state has made it clear that its ability to cope is very limited. It is important to stress that in many ways Warwick is unique, as the contents are owned personally by Lord Brooke and on exemption from capital gains tax, indeed, estate duty was paid in the past. It is an undeniable fact that, because of government legislation over the years, the contents in the large majority of historic houses, especially those open to the public, are already expropriated and therefore I think the country can take comfort from the fact that most owners will fight to the bitter end, as any way there is little if any incentive to sell the contents since very high back estate duty would have to be paid. This will also in future apply to the house and grounds. Nevertheless, it should surely be the Government's objective to create a reasonable tax environment which would give owners the confidence in the future that they desperately need. In this context it was depressing to hear only last week that Treasury Ministers turning down an important new clause drafted by the Historic Houses Association and the House of Lords to extend the capital transfer tax exemption to maintenance funds to apply to contents, on the somewhat irrelevant grounds that it might also apply to central heating! If the Government will only play its part, then I am sure that the majority of owners will continue to play theirs. Yours faithfully, MONTAGU OF BEAULIEU, President, Historic Houses Association, Palace House, Beaulieu, Hampshire.

Supporting Soviet dissidents

From Lord Hertford
Sir, Your admirable leading article (July 17) headed by the Greville family motto "I scarcely call these things 'our own'" has indeed expressed the feelings of nearly all owners of historic houses. We fully realize that the great privilege of owning and living in a place of supreme beauty carries with it a duty to the public. However, we also feel some sense of duty towards our own families and successors. Lord Brooke apparently thinks that the interests of himself and his heirs are best served by selling his works of art and transferring the money to a country where it will not be liable to capital transfer tax. Might he be right? As you, Sir, said, it is generally agreed that historic houses should be kept in private hands: and the present Government has done more than any of its predecessors to help historic houses by exempting them and their contents from CTT. This solves part of the problem. The other part is politically difficult, because it involves relieving from CTT whatever other wealth the house owner may possess. This is necessary because the tourist income does not fully cover the maintenance costs. My own house is a successful tourist resort in the sense that it is now, at the height of the season, receiving about a thousand visitors a day. This brings in a lot of money, but not enough to pay for repairs to the roof, the drive, and the James Gibbs Stables in addition to the ordinary running costs. Luckily my son and I can expect a profitable harvest this year; but if our successors have the land taxed away from them they will not be able to keep Ragley going. All politicians say they want to help historic houses and the tourist trade. It will be interesting to see who removes the threat of CTT from those owners who still try to perform their duties as guardians of the heritage. If nobody does, and if there is also a wealth tax, Lord Brooke will be proved right. I am, Sir, Your obedient servant, HERTFORD, Ragley Hall, Alcester, Warwickshire.

Should doctors strike?

From Dr Michael Ryan
Sir, In his letter about industrial action in the Health Service, Professor Sir Denis Hill (July 10) asserts that "the medical profession took the lead in this" and refers to events which occurred in 1974. However, the reference to the DES Annual Report for 1974 reveals that industrial action was taken in the first half of the year by medical physics technicians and by limited numbers of nurses. Dissatisfaction with the level of their remuneration was also the reason for industrial action in hospital engineering and building supervisory staff. It was not until November 1974 that some consultants began a work to contract (on an unofficial basis in parts of the North of England).

Law Report July 18 1978

Reference to independent tribunal on fair wages is not a submission to arbitration

Imperial Metal Industries (Kynoch) Ltd v Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Section)
Before Lord Justice Stephenson, Lord Justice Roskill and Lord Justice Geoffrey Lane.

[Judgments delivered July 12]

The reference to an independent tribunal of the question whether the terms of the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of Commons of October 14, 1946, are being complied with in the performance of a contract in which the resolution has been incorporated is not a submission to arbitration. Accordingly, the tribunal cannot be required to state an award in the form of a special case for review by the High Court under section 21 of the Arbitration Act, 1950.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the plaintiffs, Imperial Metal Industries (Kynoch) Ltd, from Mr Justice Slyn's refusal to order the second defendants, three members of the Central Arbitration Committee, to state an award in the form of a special case.

Complaint had been made by the first defendants, the Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Section of the AUEW, that IMI were not complying with the terms of the resolution in performing a contract between them and the Ministry of Defence for the supply of ammunition. That question was referred by the Secretary of State for Employment to the CAC under the terms of the resolution.

Clause 17 of the contract incorporating the resolution provides: "In the event of any question arising as to whether the requirements of this resolution are being observed, the question shall, if not otherwise disposed of, be referred by the Secretary of State to an independent tribunal for decision."

Mr Peter Crawford, QC, and Mr Michael Collins for IMI; Mr Jeffrey Burke for the union; Mr Peter Scott, QC, for the three CAC members.

LORD JUSTICE ROSKILL said that on January 8, 1977, the Secretary of State referred to the CAC a question which, in his view, had arisen in respect of training instructors employed by IMI. On March 25 the hearing of the reference took place in Birmingham before a tribunal of three people nominated by the CAC. Counsel representing IMI asked the tribunal to state a special case. The tribunal refused.

The problem had arisen because of the incorporation of the House of Commons Fair Wages Resolution as clause 17 of the standard conditions of the contract entered into by IMI and the Ministry of Defence for ammunition.

Clause 23 of the standard conditions provided that disputes under the contract were to be referred to arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Act, 1950, "except to the extent to which special provision for arbitration is made elsewhere in the contract". Clause 17 repeated the whole of the resolution, paragraph 3 being the important one.

IMI's submission was that that was a submission to arbitration within the Act, and that the present case was one in which the court had power to order a case to be stated under section 21. During the working out of the contract a question had arisen which IMI asserted was a question of law, or at least of mixed law and fact, suitable for decision by the court. The parties in dispute were IMI and the union; the other party to the contract, the ministry, had never been party to the dispute. That was of great importance. It was a striking fact that a question was raised by anybody; it did not have to be by a party to the contract. There could be a position where the two parties to the contract said that there was no breach of the Fair Wages Resolution but an outsider said that there was, and that would be a fit matter to refer to the tribunal.

The CAC, which was set up under the Employment Protection Act, 1975, was the statutory successor of the former Industrial Court established in 1919. It was common ground that when the minister referred the present question he was not inviting the CAC to perform any statutory function; in his view the committee was clearly an independent body suitable to deal with the question.

Mr Crawford, for IMI, relied on *R v Industrial Court, Ex parte Asst* ([1965] 1 QB 377), saying that the CAC members were private arbitrators. He said that there was an arbitration under the Arbitration Act, 1950, before their Lordships he added what was claimed to be a new ground, that even if there was an arbitration, there was power to order a special case on the construction of section 21.

Mr Scott, for the CAC members, invited the court to say that the underlying assumption that there was an arbitration was wrong. He contended that the Divisional Court was wrong in the *Asst* case, and that it appeared to have been accepted by all counsel that the minister's reference in that case was to the Industrial Court to act as arbitrators.

In that case the argument was on whether it was a reference to the court in a public or a private capacity. The court had not been asked to approach the construction in the way their Lordships had been asked, and while the decision must be approached with respect, it had not been argued on the same basis as arbitrators.

Mr Scott was right when he said that the Fair Wages Resolution was an expression of the House of Commons to the government of the day on how government contracts should be allocated. Paragraph 3 was out of place, after two paragraphs and before three paragraphs imposing obligations. Those five paragraphs all started "The contractor shall", but paragraph 3 did not contain those words at all. Mr Crawford had argued that clause 17 was a special provision for arbitration made elsewhere in

the contract within the meaning of clause 23. It could not be accepted that clause 23 intended to refer to clause 17.

If that was right, what were the means of control by the courts? Mr Scott had invited the court not to deal with that matter, and that was the course that would be adopted. Taking the view that clause 17(3) was not an arbitration clause it was unnecessary to consider what remedies were available to someone who complained of a decision. That did not mean that no remedy was available.

All there was in the present case was that machinery for a reference of a question not arising between the parties to the contract to an extra-statutory body for decision, and it was not right to describe that as a submission to private arbitration, because none of the characteristics of that were present.

In case his Lordship was wrong in that view, he adopted the reasoning of the judge below on the other submissions.

On the fresh point, it was impossible to construe section 21 of the Arbitration Act as other than restricted to arbitration agreements as defined in section 32.

Have you ever wished you were better informed?

THE TIMES



Rent paid in time by posting cheque on final day when that is accepted mode of payment

Beever and Another v Meson
Before Lord Justice Megaw, Lord Justice Browne and Lord Justice Shaw.

[Judgments delivered July 14]

Where over the years the course of dealing between a tenant of an agricultural holding and his landlords had been such as to show that the sending of a cheque for rent by post to the landlords was the accepted mode of payment, a request by the landlords' agent to send the cheque to him did not require the tenant to provide an alternative destination for the cheque. Accordingly, where the tenant posted a cheque for rent direct to one of the landlords on a day which was not later than the last day for payment, it had been paid in time.

The Court of Appeal, in a reserved judgment, allowed an appeal by the tenant, George Ernest Meson, from the judgment of Judge Lauriston at Malton County Court on March 10, 1977, by which he answered in favour of the landlords, Mary Kathleen Beever and Janet Mary Edzell, a question of law stated for the opinion of the court in the form of a special case by an arbitrator appointed under the Agricultural Holdings Act, 1948, namely, whether Mr Meson had failed to pay the rent due in respect of East Heslerton Wold Farm, North Yorkshire, within two months of the service on him of a valid notice requiring payment thereof, as provided by section 24(2) of the Act.

Mr Paul Kennedy, QC, and Mr John Hitchen for Mr Meson; Mr John Stuart Colyer, QC, and Mr John Collins for the landlords.

LORD JUSTICE SHAW, reading the reserved judgment, said that throughout the duration of his tenancy, which had begun in 1946, Mr Meson had invariably been late or overdue in the payment of rent. Rent was normally paid by cheque sent through the post. In 1974, the landlords instructed a Mr Townsend, a chartered surveyor, of Gole, to collect the rent on their behalf. By letter to Mr Meson dated March 11, 1975, Mr Townsend requested that in future the rents of the farm should be paid direct to me at my Gole office. The half-year's rent due on October 11, 1975, not having been paid, Mr Townsend sent a letter dated October 21, 1975, to Mr Meson by first-class post recorded delivery, enclosing a notice requiring him to pay the rent within two months of the service of the notice. The notice was received by Mr Meson on October 22. The letter stated: "Your cheque should be made payable to the Trustees of John Beever and forwarded to me at this office".

The two months expired on December 22, a Monday. On December 24, a Wednesday, Christmas Eve, Mrs Beever, one of the landlords, received by post at her home a cheque for the amount due. The cheque was dated December 20, 1975. It was delivered in an envelope bearing a first-class postage stamp and franked "York—December 22, 1975". The envelope also contained a letter dated December 20, 1975, signed by Mr Meson.

The landlords served a notice to quit on Mr Meson which effectively terminated his tenancy if he had failed to pay the rent within the two months. If he had not so failed, it would be operative. The question was in substance whether Mr Meson was to be regarded in law as having paid the rent when he had posted the cheque dated December 20, 1975, if he was, the payment had been in time. If, on the other hand, the rent could not be asserted to have been paid until the cheque had come into the hands of the landlords on December 24, it had been too late and the notice to quit had been effective to determine the tenancy.

The judge had said that Mr Townsend's letter of October 21, 1975, had not specifically stated that the cheque was to be sent by post but that he was prepared to accept that there was a reasonable implication to that effect in the letter: it was intended by the use of the word "forwarded". It was clear from the findings of the arbitrator that over the years the accepted mode of payment had been by post to the landlords. So long as the cheque had come into their hands and been duly met the rent had been paid. The case was silent as to whether the cheque of December 20, 1975, had been met, but since the question was not whether the rent had been paid at all but whether it had been paid in time, the inference was that it had been presented and paid.

On general principles, the landlord should have the rent in cash in his hands by the due date. That requirement might, however, be waived by express arrangement or by necessary implication where the facts were sufficiently strong to establish that the landlord had shown that he was content to accept payment by cheque posted by the due date of payment. Inferences of that nature were not to be too readily drawn, but where the facts supported them clearly and emphatically they were not to be dismissed. An authoritative illustration was to be found in *A/S Tankexpress v Compagnie Financière Belge de Pétrole S.A. (The Petrofina)* ([1964] AC 76, per Lord Uthwatt, at p 101, and Lord du Parc, at p 103 and 105).

In the present case, the judge had based his conclusion on the fact that the request contained in Mr Townsend's letter of March 11, 1975, in the terms Mr Beever had requested that in future the rents of the farm should be paid direct to me at my Gole office, had not been complied with inasmuch as the envelope containing the cheque had been addressed to the landlords. It followed, he considered, that as the prescribed sub-

stituted mode of payment had been strictly followed, Mr Meson could not rely on the posting of the cheque as a payment when the letter had been put in the post.

The court thought that that was an unduly narrow view on the facts of the case. Where over the years the course of dealing had been such as to show that the sending of a cheque by post to the landlords was the accepted mode of payment, a request to send the cheque to him did not require the tenant to provide an alternative destination for the cheque. A payment of equal, could hardly be less given in law than a payment made the same way and on the same conditions to the principal creditor was out of English law. Here, the cheque had been delivered. If in the circumstances the post was properly regarded as the agent of both landlord and tenant in regard to transmission of the rent (as been conceded for the landlord), the argument before the court was irrelevant and material that, despite the request referred to, the cheque had been sent to the landlords direct. In the cheque had been put in the post, then, subject only to being honoured, the rent had been paid. The postmaster's stamp that had not been later than December 22, that was, within two months after demand.

Accordingly, the court answered the question to the special case the negative and allowed the appeal.

Solicitors: Burton, Yeates, Hart for Pinkney & Marks, Bridlington; Wedlake, Bell for A. & C. F. Heywood, Gole.

Queen's Bench Division

Ramblers fail to quasi-diversion order

Ashby and Another v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another
Before Sir Douglas Frank, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division.

[Judgments delivered July 13] Where development which obstructed an existing footpath was begun before a diversion order had been published in respect of the footpath, section 209 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, could be so construed as to allow an order subsequently made under section 210 to make lawful that which was unlawful.

His Lordship refused an application by members of the Ramblers Association to quash an order of the Secretary of State for the Environment, confirming a footpath diversion order made by Kirklees Metropolitan Council under section 210.

Section 210(1) provides: "... a competent authority may by order authorize the stopping up or diversion of any footpath or highway if they are satisfied as mentioned in section 209(1) of this Act."

Section 209(1) provides: "The Secretary of State may by order authorize the stopping up or diversion of any highway if he is satisfied that it is necessary to do so in order to enable development to be carried out in accordance with planning permission granted under Part III of this Act, or to be carried out by a government department."

Mr Christopher Horder for the applicants, Mr Jeremy Sullivan for the minister.

SIR DOUGLAS FRANK said that in 1962 outline planning permission was granted for housing development on an unknown area of land but large enough to accommodate 40 houses. Through the land ran a public footpath. In due course the developers applied for detailed approval, including approval of the siting of the houses. The approval of the submitted plans showed that, of necessity, the footpath would be interfered with. The plans were approved, subject to a purported condition that the developers were required adequately to fence the footpath until such time as it had been legally diverted. In the event the builder laid down an alternative footpath on the line which had been proposed, and started building one of the houses over the original footpath before the diversion order had been published. He was charged with two counts of obstruction, and fined.

At the public inquiry in April, 1977, it was argued that the minister had no power to confirm the order. Following the Inspector's report, the order was confirmed in November, 1977. The Ramblers Association, who had intervened, contended that the developer had started to build before the order had been made. It was much harder for them to oppose diversion orders if the demolition of buildings might be involved.

Mr Sullivan submitted, in effect, that the minister was not legally bound to confirm the order in as much as it had been made unlawful. That was a point of importance. An order might be made under section 210 if the authority issued itself as mentioned in section 209(1) of the Act. The necessary condition for the permitted development to be carried out, section was framed in future tense, but contained no the practical consequences could be evaded. A house might have been demolished, then a fresh application made, and building started again.

His Lordship did not think could construe the subsection reference to its potential consequences. He had to look at words. Having done so, he thought that one must always pause before concluding that the law was unlawful. The proper way to construe the subsection was that the minister might make an order so as to allow the development to be carried out lawfully, according to the planning permission. The proper way to construe section 209 was to look at law not unlawful, development. Therefore section 210 could be invoked to make lawful that which was not. The application should therefore be dismissed.

In case he was wrong his Lordship would consider other aspects. Was the diversion necessary, enable the permitted development to be carried out? Permit to develop? In his Lordship's judgment meant all the development, not just part of it. Subsection operated until all development was carried out. The facts of the present case it was quite clear that some of the permitted development could not be carried out unless the diversion was made. It would be obstructed; it would be obstructed by the garage of house number 20. That was apparent from the plan and the inspector's findings. It was not relied on by the minister, but that was irrelevant with regard to jurisdiction. It again was enough to dispose of the matter.

Then there was the question of the use and occupancy of houses for a house, planning permission was needed both for the building operation and the occupancy which was dealt with by section 21(1) by way of a deemed grant of use. His Lordship did not see how one could lawfully use a house and garden through which ran a public path if it was inherent that use should be lawfully obstructed, as seemed inevitable, was therefore necessary to divert the footpath to enable the site each house to be used for residential purposes.

The minister was, of course, bound to give reasons for his decision. He had done so and his reasons were not challenged. No order was made for costs. Solicitors: Frank, Charley & Co for Pearman, Grazier & Co, Leeds; Treasury Solicitor.

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THE TIMES

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Warning to project industries of tougher competition abroad

By Derek Harris
British companies in project industries like construction and other forms of engineering should not expect in the future to gain so many contracts through their traditional contacts abroad.

This warning came yesterday from the Overseas Projects Board set up a year ago by the British Overseas Trade Board to help generate growth abroad for such industries.

Competition for overseas work, already fierce, was likely to get fiercer and not only from established competitors among industrially developed countries. Third World competitors—South Korea being an example—were also moving in.

The projects board's annual report, out yesterday, says that although British companies will continue to get business through their traditional contacts abroad this source of business seems likely to be on a downward trend.

The industry's future growth, the projects board suggests, is more likely to be "trading up" the selling package.

Mr Bill Francis, the board's chairman, who is head of Trafalgar House Investments' Cementation International, said there was a particular need for greater involvement in higher technology projects.

It was a worrying trend, he said, that while British projects companies were holding on to their share of low technology work they were losing contracts involving higher technology.

There had been a downward trend in research and development spending just at the time when it should have been raised, he added.

British companies also had to be more prepared to move into management contracting and package deals which could embrace funding arrangements or other financial involvement, equity participation or bilateral trade deals.

All these were areas where competitors could not so readily compete, Mr Francis added.

In the past year the projects board had helped British companies in 272 projects, all in the £10m-plus category, one which the board is concentrating on.

Contracts in the year were actually awarded in 44 projects of which 12 went to United Kingdom companies with a British work content worth around £550m. This one-in-four success rate was "reasonably sound" and the trend seemed to be encouraging, said Mr Francis.



Sir Frederick Catherwood (left), Mr Bernard Cotton, Sir Derek Ezra, Mr William Bree and Mr Roy Close after yesterday's meeting with ministers.

BIM urges ministers to ease White Paper proposals on worker-directors

By Patricia Tisdall

A plea to delay any legislation on employee participation in company management until after a voluntary trial period lasting at least three years, was made by a delegation of management representatives at a meeting with Government ministers yesterday.

The delegation, which was led by Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the British Institute of Management, urged ministers that legislation detailing the precise form which employee participation should take, would dictate the pattern of employee participation.

Sir Derek told Mr Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, Mr Albert Booth, Secretary of State for Employment and Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, Under-Secretary of State for Trade, that such legislation

would "establish a strait-jacket within which companies would be required to negotiate".

The institute, which represents some 57,000 managers of all grades, would prefer to see participation agreements introduced wholly through a voluntary Code of Practice rather than on a statutory basis.

It would also like the size of company affected by the proposals incorporated in the recent Government White Paper on industrial democracy raised from a minimum payroll of 500 employees to companies with 2,000 or more workers in the United Kingdom.

According to Sir Derek: "We don't want legislation, but if it is to be introduced it should not be applied to enterprises employing less than 2,000 in the United Kingdom. It is accepted that the burden of employment legislation is already very onerous, and to impose further legal obligations on the medium-sized companies employing less than 2,000 would add materially to these burdens."

The fear is that legislation with as low a cut-off point as 500 would inhibit growth among smaller concerns.

The managers, who mostly do not belong to trade unions, are also concerned that they are not left out of participation agreements. The delegation told ministers that the White Paper's provisions for a veto by trade unionists were not acceptable.

The Joint Representation Committee, as proposed in the White Paper, would consist of representatives of the recognized trade unions in the company; nominees of non-union members could be admitted only if all parties including, presumably, all the trade unions agreed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Britain's aircraft ordering muddle

From Mr Michael H. Barnard.

Sir, The current muddle being made over who buys which aircraft from whom shows just how inept national control of our aerospace industry has become. While one division negotiates "collaboration" with Europe on the A300 Airbus and its smaller chum the 200-seater B less 10, another division authorizes the construction of the HS 146, of which we will build 60 per cent and which will be in direct competition with the established Fokker Fellowship of which we build 45 per cent. At the same time, a third division authorizes the purchase of 19 Boeing 737s at a cost of £120m.

The upshot of all this is that Mr Varley's visit this week to Europe could easily be abortive. Even if he returns waving a piece of paper, we are likely

to be rejected by the Europeans and forced into the arms of the Boeing group. This option "will allow us to penetrate the American market"—illustrated so convincingly by the decision of United Airlines to order Boeing 767s (the B 10 equivalent) off the drawing board.

Looking even further forward to the development of a replacement for Concorde, we find that while the French and the Americans are continuing their researches, our own industry is doing no more than discuss whether it is new engine, or new airframe, technology which is needed to make a replacement effective. While the bureaucrats sit on their hands, time runs out. Money must be released now, so that both engine and airframe companies can begin to study the

problem. At the same time steps must be taken to encourage other airlines to operate the present Concorde. These airlines should be offered extra flights and hangars as an encouragement to operate an aircraft which is not only profitable a day-to-day basis, but is only a super-sound investment.

Although I realize that it is difficult for government departments to show much initiative surely there must be some up there who can release a small amount of money to enable us to compete effectively in the race for a Concorde replacement.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE BARNARD,
Advanced Concorde Lobby,
13 Ashley Road,
Richmond,
Surrey,
July 17.

Tax relief for commuters

From Mr D. H. Parker.

Sir, The chairman of the board of the Inland Revenue (July 13) explains the reason for the negotiation of round sum allowances for eight million workers. The reasons given are sensible, incontrovertible and understood by a very significant part of the working population.

However, the explanation given as to why round sum allowances cannot be given to allow for the cost of commuting to work is understood by a much less significant part of the working population.

In the South-east many workers are incurring travel costs of the order of £500 per annum to commute to his or her place of employment. Many more will do so in the short-term future and, as Sir William Pile explains, the fiscal regulations do not permit any measure of tax relief on such expenditure. It is not surprising, therefore, that there are

more clerical, secretarial and similar category jobs on offer in central London than there are suitable applicants for them.

The fact that the chairman of the board of Inland Revenue sees fit to draw attention to this anomaly leads one to suppose that he may be sympathetic to some measure of relief being authorized, even perhaps by way of extra-statutory concession.

The technical difficulties in introducing fair regulations for the purpose are great, but the need for relief is greater and I would submit in the interest of the national economy on the argument that the cost of travel to work is a significant element in salary and wage claims.

Yours faithfully,
D. H. PARKER,
Meadow View,
South Creak,
Norfolk, NR21 9PP,
July 13.

Schiphol as a third London airport

From Mr R. A. P. Smith.

Sir, If there is a serious by the Dutch that Schiphol should become London's third airport (Mr Gibbon's July 14, let us please encourage it. Let us not discourage descendants of Admiral Tromp.

Enthusiastic acceptance of the concept by both British and Dutch would avoid any Royal Commission on the subject and would allow residents of Stansted, Luton and other proposed sites (including the Brent geese of Maastricht) to sleep peacefully and literally in their beds. It would also result in the first achieved benefit of our joining the Common Market.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. P. SMITH,
16 Oakfields Road,
Hertfordshire,
July 14.

Taxation of the married

From Miss K. M. Lewis.

Sir, I heartily agree with Jose Weinberg's plea (July 14) that husbands and wives should be assessed separately for income tax, provided:

1) that the married man's income should be the same as that for a single person; 2) that local authorities should be assessed on basis of the number of sons inhabiting a house, using the services provided by the rates.

The present method of assessment bears heavily on single people and it seems to be no reason why a wife should be exempt paying rates.

Yours faithfully,
K. M. LEWIS,
12 Lyphard Court,
Lyphard Road,
Chesham, Bucks, HP50 2PW,
July 12.

Ships chief attacks ITF pay policy

By Christopher Thomas

Severe criticism was levelled at the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) yesterday by Mr Graham Turnbull, chief negotiator of the General Council of British Shipping.

He said employers, seafarers and shore staff were under attack from the ITF, which has its headquarters in London. "Let us be quite clear. ITF rates have ever been negotiated with anyone, but are laid down unilaterally by the ITF as a level with which employers should comply—or else."

Mr Turnbull said he believed ITF policies were dominated by the Scandinavian unions, which were trying to force other people's rates up to make their own position more competitive. "Their policies cannot be in the overall interests of British seafarers."

He said it would be absurd to try to harmonize seafarers' wages throughout the EEC as it would mean more redundancies. As for the next pay rise, he asserted that "at the moment the industry cannot afford to pay anything, but of course it must". There was an acute surplus of shipping tonnage laid up, and others being sold at "depressing, knock-down prices".

IBM enters colour control field

In brief

International Business Machines Corporation and office equipment group, yesterday marked its entry into the field of scientific instrumentation by launching its analytical instruments for the textile and paint industries.

IBM technology developed by the company for its own factories and laboratories, the new products are computer-based spectrophotometers. They analyse colours in detail for textiles and for paint coatings respectively, and are claimed to give better control of colour quality, faster colour analysis, and improved productivity.

Among other uses are colour matching, production and laboratory "adds", dye and pigment analysis, shade sorting, production sorting and dye or pigment inventory control. Prices range from £42,950 to £49,900.

Development aid for 'advance offices' plan

With a serious shortage of office space possibly emerging by the early 1980s, one solution outside London could be to use some development area aid funds for the occasional "advance office" instead of wholly for advance factories. This was urged yesterday by the Location of Offices Bureau (LOB) in its first annual report since it was given a nationwide remit for promoting better distribution of office employment.

Not only were there few new offices under construction in London despite the signs of an upturn in demand for space, but there were a considerable number of towns in Britain with practically no office space available, the report stated.

There was the problem that, except in central London, developers were not inclined to risk projects unless they had a potential client.

Midlands strike call

Thousands of West Midlands workers are to stage a one-day strike in an attempt to save the Bilston steelworks. The strike, on September 11, is being called in protest against growing unemployment in the region. It was sparked off by plans to close the works, with the loss of 2,400 jobs.

'Memory' typewriter

Olivetti, the typewriter and office equipment group, yesterday launched an electronic "memory" typewriter in Milan which the company hopes will be on sale from September. The price will be below 2m lire (£2,250). The typewriter, known as the Eriol, is being manufactured at Olivetti's Crema factory in Lombardy. Some 50,000

will be made in the first year and then the company hopes to double its output. It plans to export 60-70 per cent, particularly to North America. This new product comes at a time when Olivetti is wrestling with debts which at the end of last year amounted to 920,000m lire (£375m).

Redundancy protest

About 1,100 workers at the Bradford factory of International Harvester staged a 24-hour strike yesterday as a further round of redundancies was announced. In April 250 employees lost their jobs. Now a further 174 workers from the current labour force of 1,377 at Bradford, and 116 at Doncaster, are to be made redundant in three months.

Food chain expansion

Caters, the grocery retail subsidiary of Debenhams, is to spend £14m over the next four years to develop new retail sites and extend existing ones. Five new supermarkets and three food halls are planned, with the first of the supermarkets due to open in September.

Like many other grocery-based multiples, Caters is now planning to extend beyond food retailing, with its decreasing profit margins, into non-food items. But the chain has turned its back on possible superstore development.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The following are the monthly figures for Great Britain:

	Total unemployed	Seasonally adjusted	% of total labour force
1977	1,553	1,542	5.8
July	1,567	1,554	5.8
Aug	1,547	1,536	5.7
Sept	1,457	1,446	5.4
Oct	1,432	1,421	5.3
Nov	1,420	1,409	5.2
Dec	1,420	1,409	5.2
1978	1,425	1,414	5.2
Jan	1,446	1,435	5.2
Feb	1,389	1,378	5.1
March	1,387	1,376	5.1
April	1,387	1,376	5.1
May	1,325	1,314	4.9
June	1,281	1,270	4.8
July	1,312	1,301	4.9

*excluding school leavers

REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

Seasonally adjusted* (excluding school leavers)

	Number	% of total labour force
South East	304,600	5.0
East Anglia	54,200	4.9
South West	89,800	6.2
W Midlands	120,300	5.4
E Midlands	79,200	4.9
Yorkshire/Essex	115,600	5.5
North West	197,400	7.0
North	109,300	6.0
Wales	24,800	7.9
Scotland	168,200	7.6
GB	1,308,000	5.6
N Ireland	61,000	11.2
UK	1,371,300	6.0

Once again British Airports show a healthy profit.

British Airports Authority Annual Report 1977/78

	1977/78 £million	1976/77 £million
Net assets	333.0	318.0
Total Income	125.1	103.2
Pre-Tax Profit	24.3	17.6
Capital Expenditure	37.0	42.0
Foreign Currency Earnings	46.0	38.0

British Airports were formed as a national service enterprise in 1966.

Since then, we have been consistently profitable. Every year.

This year is no exception.

Despite only a small increase in traffic, due to industrial action within the industry, we again lifted our pre-tax profit.

We are completely self-financing. And we plan to invest £240 million over the next 5 years on airport improvements.

Through Heathrow and Gatwick, London offers more International flights than any other European capital, helping to maintain its position as one of the world's leading tourist and business centres.

British
Airports

Heathrow · Gatwick · Stansted · Glasgow · Edinburgh · Prestwick · Aberdeen

And now for more good news

Chairman W. S. Whittingham is able to report:

"Our order book stands considerably higher than at this stage last year and I am confident that pre-tax profits for the year 1978/9 will exceed the £44 million recently reported on a maintained turnover."

And we can make this promise:

"As soon as the future of dividend restraint legislation is clarified your Board will re-examine its dividend policy with a view to substantially increasing the level of dividends."

The report also reveals that Monk's turnover increased to a record £71 million during the last financial year. And the good news is that the value of contracts in hand tops up to an all time best of £93 million. These are now undertaken all over England, Wales and Scotland and many of them are in the multi-million-pounds brackets. They include major projects for the Department of the Environment (P.S.A.), Department of Transport, Water Authorities, Local Authorities, British Rail, National Coal Board, Shell (UK) Limited and Shell Chemicals (UK) Limited, ICI, Massey Ferguson, Unilever, British Leyland, British Gas Corporation and Regional Gas Boards.

Monk

Copies of the Annual Report are available from the Company Secretary, A. Monk & Company Limited, Green Lane, Warrington, Cheshire.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Magnet & Southern's results dip but current year's outlook better

By Bryan Appleyard
Magnet & Southern's profits fell in the year to March 31, by £241,000 to £14.2m on turnover up by 8 per cent to £105.6m.

The cause of the fall was the Southern-Evans timber side which turned in profits of £6.4m with £7.6m coming from the Magnet Joinery division. Though the figures are not strictly comparable with last year, as the divisional breakdown now includes inter-company stock profits, the profits last year were £7.2m and £7.1m.

The problems of the timber side are familiar enough after recent announcements from the group's competitors: adverse currency movements and a static market led to falling prices and stock losses in contrast to the substantial stock profits of the year before.

Currently, Mr Samuel Oxford, the chairman, is reasonably optimistic about the level of timber prices and expects the company to pick-up market share as well as benefit from



Mr Samuel Oxford, chairman of Magnet & Southern.

a general volume upturn. The industry seems generally to be expecting this upturn to be about 5 per cent, but Mr Oxford is expecting the group to

achieve a 10 per cent improvement this year.

On the joinery side, the performance was helped by the continuing strength of the home improvements market. Though the long-awaited upturn in private housebuilding did not materialize during the year, the first signs now indicate that it is beginning.

The company seems well able to finance the volume upturn. Stocks are already high and the fast throughput means substantial financing of sales with out arise. In addition, the net liquid surplus increased last year from £1.6m to £4.9m.

The group has adopted the ED 19 proposals on deferred tax and adjusted last year's figures accordingly. Earnings per share for 1977 are restated at 30p instead of 21.8p, while earnings for the current year are down to 27.9p.

The final dividend is 8.1p gross, making a total of 13.3p. Turnover last year increased from £48.4m to £53.6m with a modest increase in volume sales in the UK resulting in a better sales mix.

New ceramic tile boosts figures of H & R Johnson-Richards

By Michael Clark

A new range of more "sophisticated" ceramic tiles has helped boost the results of H. & R. Johnson-Richards Tiles, which earlier this year received the unwanted attention of Hepworth Ceramic.

Figures for the year to March 31 show pre-tax profits 45 per cent ahead at £5.5m much to line with market expectations.

A final dividend of 1.44p has been proposed making a total for the year of 6.3p gross compared with 5.4p last time. Should dividend restraint be

lifted shareholders are promised that higher distributions are visualized for the future.

At present the dividend is 8.6 times covered.

As a result the shares remained unchanged on the day at 94p putting them on a p/e ratio of 6.3p with a yield of 6.8 per cent.

Despite adverse economic backgrounds at home and overseas, the group states, that prospects for the current year are for steady progress.

In the meantime, internal expansion continues and the pos-

sibilities of external acquisitions are being examined.

Turnover last year increased from £48.4m to £53.6m with a modest increase in volume sales in the UK resulting in a better sales mix.

Elsewhere, throughout the world, the group's performance has been more up and down. The contribution from its associated companies in India and Greece is some £40,000 below last year's figure while its United States subsidiary did slightly better than forecast with losses of £500,000.

The directors are forecasting total dividends of 9.91p for this year. That puts the shares on an ex-rights yield of 12.3 per cent on the basis of last night's closing price of 83p.

Illingworth's all-round improvement

By Our Financial Staff

An across-the-board improvement has helped boost pre-tax profits of textile group Illingworth Morris, from last year's restated figure of £2.92m to £4.76m, which is still short of the £5.2m achieved in 1974.

The group reports that trading conditions at home and abroad are showing little sign of significant improvement and warns that it will have done well in the current year if it can match last year's profits.

The results were slightly better than expected and with earnings doubling from 4.6p to

9.86p, the shares were 1p better at 32p yesterday. On this basis the shares are on a p/e ratio of 3.2 and a yield of 6.8 per cent.

A final dividend of 1.46p has been proposed, making a total for the year of 2.2p gross, compared with 1.97p last time.

As reported at the half-way stage, the profits of its South African subsidiary have not been included, following the group's decision to de-consolidate its position.

A breakdown of turnover, which increased from £115.8m to £120m, showed that sales in the United Kingdom increased

from £55m to £57m, while direct exports slipped from £48.5m to £47.3m. Indirect exports accounted for £14.3m against £11.2m, while overseas subsidiaries chipped in with an increase from £776,000 to £885,000.

Profit margins overall benefited from programmes of re-equipment and rationalization, while the best performances within the group came from its worsted and woollen divisions.

Most of the work in these divisions goes for export to the Common Market countries, the Middle East and Japan.

Wm Leech raising £2m by 1-for-4 'rights'

By Our Financial Staff

William Leech (Builders) is asking its shareholders for £2.02m via a one-for-four rights issue exactly two years after it came to the stock market.

The issue is at 70p per share, against the pre-issue price of 85p and the flotation price two years ago of 64p.

Though the group sees the issue as essentially a medium-term move, it has some very bullish things to say about current trading. Completions of new house sales in the four months to June 30 were up 42 per cent while building reservations in the same period were up 39 per cent at 901 against 650 last year.

Leech had anticipated this growth in demand and built up its stock of available houses last year. However, this level of activity is not expected to continue throughout the year and in the light of political and economic policy uncertainty a profits forecast is thought to be inappropriate.

High demand levels are causing no cash problems—borrowings since the year-end have fallen from £5.5m to £4.4m—but the new money will strengthen the group's capital base and help future expansion via acquisition of land and companies.

In the last full year, Leech spent £1m cash in buying Hugh Owen & Son (Holdings) and £1.54m on land. At the end of the year, the land bank comprised over 10,000 plots with planning permission and another 3,800 acres with likely planning permission. The value of the bank is in the balance sheet at £7.2m but is believed to be substantially more on the open market.

The directors are forecasting total dividends of 9.91p for this year. That puts the shares on an ex-rights yield of 12.3 per cent on the basis of last night's closing price of 83p.

At all events, the ground conceded by the FT index yesterday was both small and grudging, but it was not regained. At 10 am it was 2.2 down at 477.4. An hour later it was as much as 3.7 down but at 11.30 the index was 6.9 down at 472 which looked a bit ominous.

This was little more than dealers marking down shares in response to a wave of sellers. There was some bargain marked were only 4.757, against 4.321 on Monday.

Dealers reported light but persistent selling, mainly from speculators, but no disposals from institutions. The impression was that fund managers

Bambergers

Mr Cecil Woodburn-Bamberger, chairman of timber group Bambergers, says in his annual report that sales in the first quarter of this year are "a little ahead" of last year and profitability is increasing.

He admits there are areas over which the company has no control—foreign currency and changes in Government policy—but the company is continuing to improve facilities to benefit specifically in the home improvements and DIY areas.

Stock markets

Index falls on dividend fears

Monday was the day for hope but yesterday was the one for fear. Gilt edged stocks went easier at first in little business on thoughts that postponement of a second call for special deposits would actually put more money back into the market; that long dated stocks are getting near "tap" levels; and that high money market rates act like a magnet on short gilts, preventing them from rising.

Continuing scarcity of money in the money market and short dated stocks 115 off but they steadied at the close while

J & J Dyson are 60p where the yield is already 10 per cent. Profits in the year to March 31 last probably rose from £2.3m to £3m against an indicated £2.7m. Last year there was an official hint of a rights issue which could point to freer dividends. The equity is largely in non-voting shares and here too action should be seen eventually.

Insurance went easier by up to 8p, as to Gardian at 218p and Royal at 372p. Properties lost ground Land Securities fell 3p to 215p and Stock Conversion 4p to 244p. Hammerman A went down 5p to 555p. It was left to special situations to make the trading and happily there was plenty of action.

Among industrial leaders, ICI mirrored the mood with a 8p loss to 384p. Unilever fell 10p to 530p and Pisons retreated 5p to 365p. Tube Investments lost 8p to 368p and Glaxo shed 7p to 566p. Beecham only fell 2p to 365p.

Books joined in the downturn with Lloyds retreating 10p to 275p, Midland 5p to 360p and National Westminster 28p, down 5p.

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are happy enough to see shares drift down a bit because shares had risen without a break for a week.

Eyes are on the present pay talks between the Government and the TUC. It has taken the market a day or two to catch up with growing pessimism about dividends after July 31.

The feeling is that important leaks about the pay talks or some other guidance is needed now for there to be a real selling wave toppling the index.

The next few days are viewed with mixed feelings. Meanwhile, the market sees obstacles to the Government's rumoured dividend policy.

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Among industrial leaders, ICI mirrored the mood with a 8p loss to 384p. Unilever fell 10p to 530p and Pisons retreated 5p to 365p. Tube Investments lost 8p to 368p and Glaxo shed 7p to 566p. Beecham only fell 2p to 365p.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

A harder line on dividends

Dividend pendulum began to swing back yesterday towards the view that company controls may be maintained after the end of this month if the Government is in its intention of introducing a fore the end of this session.

It still hinges on the outcome of the night and the Liberals are apparently holding their fire until they see the result of the Paper on pay which is expected on Friday. Liberal support is a must, but provided the Government can get the Treasury to agree on the issue of the dividend, the dividend pendulum will swing back to the Government's favour.

so, the market is already discounting a relaxed period on the dividend front. The Government's intention of introducing a fore the end of this session.

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Government's implied tougher stance the prospect of continued dividend may not be too serious for some companies, such as engineering and the banks, but for others such as food, food processing and some brewers it would be a nasty one. Individual companies like Shell, BP, and others have already made it at their dividends, will go up sharply, can be expected much of the ground they have made recent months in anticipation of on.

Against the poppies hurdle

Group's £38m bid for J. B. Eastwood is a fifth higher than the one made by the company in the highly competitive industry. On stated earnings of 14p a share, but this rises to 16p on a fully-taxed, although the 16p is a solid enough. Imperial's existing strength in the business through Ross Foods, the company's main asset, is a major factor in the bid. The company's existing strength in the business through Ross Foods, the company's main asset, is a major factor in the bid.



Members of Imperial Group

that can convince the authorities that the company is a serious contender for the takeover of the United Kingdom. The company's existing strength in the business through Ross Foods, the company's main asset, is a major factor in the bid.

of course foods, the fact that this time the group is not going for a "fifth leg" could be a plus point for the shares.

The fear of course is that Imps will only increase its exposure to the cyclical problems of the food industry through this move, although some argue that with the present shakeout of small producers in Europe the troughs may not be so deep in the future.

British Gas Ignoring the Hyde guidelines

Under conventional historic cost accounting in the year to March, British Gas made a profit of £326m. The pre-interest margin was 17.9 per cent and the return on capital employed around 22 per cent. In the terms of a state-owned corporation which is holding a price freeze for two years these figures can hardly be called excessive although they compare very well with British industry as a whole.

But these are not the figures which British Gas itself produces. Spurred on by the Government, British Gas has introduced an additional depreciation charge in its last two accounts similar in style to that of GKN and Arthur Lee, to reflect the true cost of replacing its assets.

This reduces profits in the past year to March 31 to £180m and to £161m the year before. A similar practice adopted by the South of Scotland Electricity Board was heavily criticized by the Price Commission because, in adopting only part of the Hyde guidelines on inflation accounting, it understated true profits.

Being largely debt-financed British Gas under the Hyde guidelines, should reduce its additional depreciation charge by the proportion of capital employed financed by borrowing. It does not because it claims that profit is not affected by the way in which a company is financed. In fact if British Gas revalued its assets to current cost its equity would rise substantially as a proportion of capital employed and the additional depreciation charge would be reduced by only 20 per cent.

English Property Second thoughts?

Shares in English Property Corporation have started to edge forward recently on hopes that the long-drawn out talks with a European bidder announced at the end of May cannot go on indefinitely. But there is no announcement in the pipeline and with no news fast becoming bad news the patience of those involved is reaching breaking point.

In the meantime, shareholders have been left in limbo and after jumping to 51p at one stage the shares are now back to 44p only a sixth higher than they were before the news of the surprise approach. But with the virtual impossibility of estimating the true worth of ERC holders are effectively locked into an increasingly unsatisfactory position.

In fact, what is now holding up the progress of the talks is not so much the difficulties in unravelling EPC's complicated financial structure as the reservations of Wereldhave, the Dutch property group that is certainly the bidder, about taking on the whole of EPC's ramshackle property portfolio.

Apparently after sifting through the property book, Wereldhave, has been having second thoughts and is only really interested in acquiring the Canadian interests. What it is now endeavouring to do is put together a consortium which will assume responsibility for EPC's far from prime United Kingdom portfolio and the troubled Belgian and French interests.

Not surprisingly then, and in the meantime, the departure of disaffected senior and middle management is draining away the lifeblood of the company and along with it its will to survive.

The British commercial vehicle market is the biggest in Europe. Because of the country's geographical compactness it is also fairly inexpensive to establish a network of dealers and service outlets.

Against this background it is not surprising that most of Europe's truck makers have made big efforts to build British networks in recent years. But there is now another element.

The voluntary restraint agreement which is holding up the growth of Japanese car sales in this country is a further incentive for Japanese commercial vehicle manufacturers to try to emulate their European competitors and break into the British market.

Such a move has been feared for some time. Indeed, with the increasing success of Japanese car imports in mind (they now take more than a tenth of the market), the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders recently concluded a voluntary agreement with the Japanese which "bans" the import of commercial vehicles of over 3.5 tons gross vehicle weight.

The obvious way around such a "ban" is the establishment of assembly bases here. Plans to do this are already being investigated by Hino, the Japanese truck manufacturer linked to the giant Toyota group, and Mitsubishi Motors.

In typically Japanese fashion these projects are being nursed along in a very low key by independently owned import companies. J. Harris (Assemblies) already claims 70 per cent of the Irish market for heavy trucks with plants assembled from Japanese "kits" in premises near Dublin.

Now it plans to set up a second assembly plant in the North-west of England to tackle the British market. Liverpool's Mr. Manchester, who suggested as the most likely places for it.

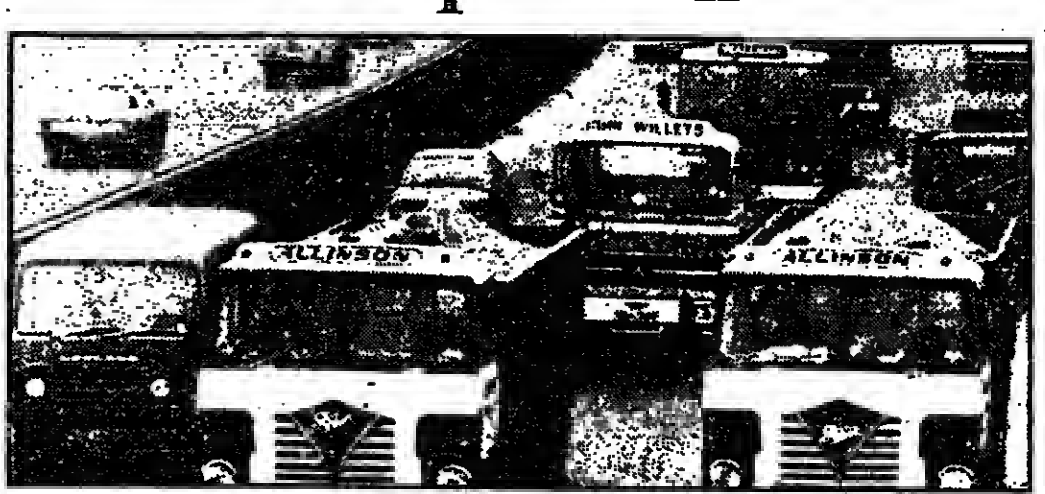
Harris executives counter criticism of another Japanese invasion by insisting that at least half of their vehicles will be made in the EEC.

Colt Cars, Mitsubishi's United Kingdom concessionaire, is reported to have held talks with the Welsh Office and the South Glamorgan County Council about setting up a truck assembly plant in the area between Cardiff and Newport. Colt already imports its cars through Newport docks and clearly hopes that any move to provide jobs in an area already hard hit by the closure of British Steel's East Moors works will attract local sympathy. It will also qualify for government assistance, which could be as high as 40 per cent.

Government reaction is not known at this stage, but there is already growing criticism. It is unofficially reported that British Leyland chairman Mr. Michael Edwards, has left

Yesterday's resignation after only 22 months with the company of Mr. Desmond Piche, managing director of Leyland Vehicles (the former British Leyland Truck and Bus Division), has come at a particularly critical time for the state-controlled motor group. The British commercial vehicle market is recovering from the deep recession of the past four years faster than other European markets, but Leyland Vehicles, which has been undergoing a large-scale reorganization of its plants and truck range, is losing sales to all its main competitors. There is also growing concern that the Japanese are planning to break into a market with lorries assembled at plants in Wales and on Merseyside.

Lorry makers jostle for position



Manufacturers in no doubt that he would regard the setting up of Japanese assembly plants as a direct threat to the jobs of the 40,000 employed in his Leyland Vehicles subsidiary.

Mr. Edwards' concern will find widespread support among British and European commercial vehicle makers for several reasons. The most convincing is that there are already too many makers competing in Britain. In the heavy end of the market there are eight British-based companies and something like a dozen foreigners.

Besides the big four—Leyland, Ford, Bedford (Vauxhall) and Chrysler—there are the smaller specialists peculiar to the British trucking scene, such as ERF, Foden, Seddon Atkinson (now part of the American International Harvester Group), and Hestair Dennis.

Volvo's remarkable success in the over-28 tons class has acted like a magnet for other importers. The first Volvo lorries arrived here some 11 years ago as a quite unknown quantity. Within a short time they were the market leader—and this in the fastest growing sector of the motor vehicle market.

Volvo is still the market leader in the over-28 tons articulated class despite the increasing opposition from later arrivals, such as Scania, Daf, Mercedes-Benz, Iveco (Fiat and Magnus Daimler), MAN and Renault. Such blanket coverage has inevitably led to fierce competition. The battle for sales was bitter enough in the bus/market which existed before the 1973 slump. The recession which followed lasted for four years and during that time salesmen used every device to keep their networks afloat.

Book prices mean nothing in the truck world. It is virtually impossible to discover what is actually paid for vehicles. With many of the newly arrived importers facing a battle for survival and prepared to pare profit margins to the minimum—some accepted big losses on each unit—the business became a jungle in which the only winners were the salvage companies.

Now, with buyers returning, prospects are much brighter and the battered survivors are in no mood to share the available cake with Japanese newcomers.

Last year, the over 3.5 tons market increased by 7.3 per cent to 61,486 units. Early this year

European truck maker and a much feared contender in Britain, increased its sales by a remarkable 56 per cent. Magirus Deutz, another German firm, put on 52 per cent, Volvo 45 and Daf 42.

This setback has been particularly hard to bear for Mr. Edwards. With his reorganized car operations struggling to recover their market share—down to a disastrous 17.5 per cent last month—and the distinct possibility that they will again lose money this year, he has been looking to Leyland Vehicles, an established profit maker, to sweeten the group balance sheet.

It was thus with some feeling that he told last month's general meeting that Leyland Vehicles was "entirely unsatisfactory".

Mr. Edwards had already emphasized his concern to Mr. Desmond Piche, the managing director of Leyland Vehicles, whose resignation was announced yesterday, and Mr. Piche had set in train meetings between senior management, union leaders and shop stewards.

At the first joint meeting in London, Mr. Piche spelled out the company's decline, with production down from 65,400 vehicles in 1970 to 43,100 last year. He also underlined the sales position, with Leyland taking only 20.4 per cent of the lorry market. The parallel with the decline of BL Cars is frightening, to say the least. But the hope is that the much less volatile labour force in the truck factories will react to the present threat in time to recover sales, and protect jobs.

Plant level meetings are now attempting to reach agreement on the causes of poor production and how to eliminate them. Bathgate, with a key role as Leyland's only producer of low price, high volume lorries, has by far the worst productivity record—so had to fact that there are still doubts about the way employees there will react to a new productivity pact put into operation earlier this month.

It is not difficult to understand why Leyland executives beset by so many problems talk about the threat of a Japanese lorry invasion. The last straw, and look to the Government to protect them during a period of extensive reorganization.

As one executive put it, "we are in exactly the same position as our colleagues in BL Cars. As long as Leyland has been made available to modernize plant, and develop new generation trucks, but that means we shall be vulnerable for some time yet and need protecting during the interim."

The Japanese did it themselves when they were organizing their motor industry after the war. We are in a similar position now.

Clifford Webb

Italy gets down to business again

Rome For weeks Italians have been expecting Pandolfi's box to be opened, and for weeks one obstacle or another has come in the way to dispirit them. Not that the contents should be quite so ill-omened as those of Pandolfi's.

Their concern projections for the public finances in an outline 1979-81 financial plan, as well as an updated budget for 1978, all of which have been a foremost priority for Signor Filippini Maria Pandolfi, the Treasury Minister, since Signor Giulio Andreotti's government took office with Communist support in March.

Now that political life is returning to normal after the election of Signor Sandro Pertini as President of the republic, Signor Pandolfi has undertaken to produce these documents in a matter of days.

The fact that for the first time the President is a Socialist should be immaterial to the formulation of these policies, but it is a significant move towards a more unified government.

The Christian Democrats have in any case during their 30 years in power gone further than any other western government without need of "moderation" in their economic policy. Now, in bringing a large slice of economic activity under public control.

Italy is a hobby horse of Signor Giulio Andreotti, President of the confederation of private industry, Confindustria, and former Governor of the Bank of Italy, to argue that the freedom of the entrepreneur has virtually disappeared due to what he calls the "socialistic" policies of governments always giving in to popular demands.

Every one, whether in government, industry or trade unions, is setting his sights on 1979—the unions, incidentally, have to negotiate later this year labour contracts affecting nine million workers in 1979. Economically speaking, events have conspired to make 1978 a lost year.

Political life was paralyzed first by the resignation of Signor Andreotti's previous government in January. It took until March to form his new government but, on the day he sought Parliament's confidence, the Christian Democrat party president, Signor Aldo Moro, was kidnapped and murdered six weeks later.

Attention was then diverted to two referendums (on financial and political parties and on law and order) and to a series of elections. Just when it seemed the Government could get into its stride, the public

John Earle

ation of information about the activities of President Giovanni Leone and his family brought about his premature resignation, and more weeks went by until the election of his successor.

The economy appeared in these months to be left to look after itself. Perhaps the most disturbing aspect was the uncontrolled leap in the public sector deficit. The requirements of the enlarged public sector are estimated by a Treasury study group to be doubling over two years, from 21,000,000 lire (£13,125m) in 1977, to around 40,000,000 lire (£24,375m) in 1979.

On the other hand the balance of payments has improved beyond expectation, running at a surplus of over £2,000m in the first five months of this year, while foreign exchange reserves have risen to over \$9,000m, making possible the premature repayment of a \$1,000m overdraft on a gold-backed loan from the Bundesbank.

Inflation, however, persists in the 12-14 per cent range, and Italy is one of the few Western industrialized countries with little prospect of bringing it down to single figures.

Industrial production furthermore has shown falls each month on a twelve-month basis for the past year, though the underlying trend of recent months is towards recovery.

At the same time it would be unfair to suggest that nothing has been done. With pinching and squeezing, taxes have been increased in fields such as motor vehicle tax, bank deposit interest, stamp duty and the registration of contracts.

The Government is committed to fighting tax evasion, which appears to be particularly widespread in the value added tax and income tax of the self-employed, and has promised to publish a list of 400 ascertained tax evaders.

Parliament is considering important schemes to set up a public health service and to modernize the inadequate public accounting system. The Government has drawn up industrial plans for basic chemicals, steel, paper, electronics, and textiles and clothing, while more plans are promised

for machine tools and fine chemicals.

These have been widely criticized by the business and trade union worlds, however, as little more than a mixture of studies and pious hopes. Signor Carlo Donat Cattin, the Industry Minister, has added an air of unreality by admitting that money would not be available to achieve their stated goals.

But plans are important and provide a framework in which firms can apply for assistance under the law.

The unforeseen political vicissitudes have meant that negotiations for new credit facilities from the International Monetary Fund and the European Community have fallen behind schedule. Teams from both bodies were recently in Rome, but accomplished less than originally hoped.

In spite of its improved financial situation, the Government still sets much store on obtaining credits of about \$1,000m from the IMF and about \$1,500m from the EEC. These, it seems, will now have to await the autumn, until after Pandolfi's box has been opened and its contents have been debated, approved, and incorporated into a credible, forward looking government policy.

Business Diary: Pitcher steps off the bus • Vlasov ahoy

Pitcher's resignation as managing director of Leyland Vehicles and Bus Division has come as a surprise to many. He has been in the job for 22 months, but there is no doubt that he has done a good job. His departure is a loss to the company, but it is also a relief to many who were concerned about his health.

Only a matter of time? BL's Pitcher.

of subsidiary companies, to Leyland's truck plant at Bathgate, Lothian. Pitcher was in Edinburgh with other members of the board the previous evening but he did not accompany Edwards to Bathgate and was not present when he addressed a meeting of shop stewards about the plant's abysmal production record.

The reclusive White Russian emigre, Boris Vlasov, has, I hear, consolidated his position in the United Kingdom shipping industry by taking over the half of Silver Line which he did not control.

Vlasov, who like the late Ariston Onassis, runs his shipping empire from Monaco Carlo, is little known outside a close circle of business associates and has scarcely visited Britain over the past 30 years.

although his interest in shipping first began in London before the war.

He has a taste for large American cars and expensive clothes and is fluent in about half a dozen languages. He is now a big force in the troubled shipping international industry.

Silver Line has had a chequered history since it was established over 50 years ago as a cargo liner company. It later switched to the tramp trades and time charter market and seven years ago became part of Shipping Industrial Holdings. In 1974 it was acquired by Navco Shipping (Holdings) on behalf of the Vlasov Group and Capitalfin, an Italian investment company.

Vlasov's latest move arises from the difficulties of the shipping industry problems which led the Government earlier this year to introduce terms for a rescheduling of debt repayments on loans advanced for ships built in Britain and backed by government guarantees.

Appropriately, the take over announcement is being made later today at the launching of the last of five products carriers ordered five years ago from Cammel Laird on Merseyside.

Even at today's depressed prices, Vlasov is probably reasonably happy with the price of £9.4m for each ship but will be less than happy about delays in delivery.

Diecast models are now big

business as industrial sales aids, but for reasons nobody is quite sure about, most come from the United States and West Germany. Imports of £2m worth last year are expected to be nearly £7m this year according to the Department of Trade.

Almost every company in the transport business has a diecast scale model of its product to use either as a publicity medium or simply to give away to distributors or customers. But they are very expensive.

A small Leeds company has entered the model market with a cheaper, cardboard alternative—if you like cardboard—which could save on imports.

Alan Dignan, formerly merchandising manager to Massey Ferguson, now with T. I. Churchill, of Davenport, started the ball rolling when he was quoted £9 each by a North American company for a diecast model of an MF tractor, and was warned that the price was soon likely to rise to £14.

He hit upon the idea of three dimensional scale models built from cardboard and went to Cardcraft Models of Horsforth, Leeds, which came up with a prototype so delightful MF that it ordered 40,000 copies at a tenth of the cost of diecast models. They proved so popular that another 150,000 were ordered and the range expanded.

"building" the models themselves anyway.

Besides agricultural and construction industry vehicles, like combine harvesters, tractors and diggers, the company, which has an eye on the retail model market, has produced a vintage racing car model, but pressure of work for industry is crowding this.

Michael Pye was technical director of Sinclair Radionics when early in 1976 he added to the brain drain of electronics specialists by joining Gillette in the United States. Now he is back as the new managing director of Clive Sinclair's Cambridgehire company whose latest venture is the pocket-size television set.

He takes the place of Norman Hewitt who left a couple of weeks ago after what is being described, in the traditional way, as a disagreement over policy.

What makes Pye's reverse brain drain move the more surprising is that he went to Gillette on an offer so substantial as to be unrefusable. He left Sinclair well before it ran into financial problems because of losses on its Black Watch digital timepiece venture. The NEB stepped in during December, 1976, with £450,000 for a 43 per cent stake in Sinclair, since increased to 80 per cent.

Clive Sinclair went to see Pye, who was director of electronic development for Gillette, just as he was trying to decide how to ensure an English education for his son and daughter. But Pye (no relation to Pye

of Cambridge) also knew from his three years with Sinclair that the job would be more exciting given Sinclair's preselection for electronic pioneering. It's a frontier stuff and a lot more interesting than the work at Gillette," Pye tells me. Pye also goes into a company that is now operating at a profit.

How is this for an example of impartial information? Holders of American Express cards are treated this month to an effusive review of Lotus Cars, detailing how the group grew from an acorn to an oak tree.

And why not, since Amex cardholders are the people well-heeled enough to buy a Lotus? Especially since the company is doing so well on the Grand Prix circuit this year. Towards the end of the review, however, the reason becomes ever clearer. American Express International Banking, the London merchant banking arm of Amex, is backing Lotus to the tune of £2m.

Lotus, it will be remembered, fell on hard times last year and was declared a different sort of circuit in the City. After a number of fruitless pit stops, one of them at Equity Bank, Amex International carried out the necessary refuelling.

According to Arthur Day, director-general of the Institute of Export, when Sherlock Holmes came home to find the front door painted yellow he said to Dr Watson: "It's a lemon entry, my dear Watson."

GREENE KING

Brewers — Bury St. Edmunds

MORE PROGRESS

	1978 52 weeks to 30 April	1977 52 weeks to 1 May
Turnover	£900	£700
Profit before tax	38,580	32,178
Taxation	4,252	3,613
Profit after tax	2,134	1,773
	2,118	1,840

Dividend: Second interim payment declared making total distribution (including tax credits) 10.89 pence per share against 9.9 pence last year. Dividend limitation permitting a third interim dividend of 0.7443 pence net (1.1109 pence with tax credit) will be paid.

In his review of the year, the Chairman, Sir Hugh Greene, KCMG, OBE, says—

- Despite difficult weather conditions last summer, all our main operations contributed to an improved performance.
- We are satisfied that our prices are truly competitive both at wholesale level and in our managed houses. This is an important factor in maintaining our sales impetus.
- Investment in brewing capacity and processing plant continued and our capital expenditure budget for 1978/79 is over £4m.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Building recession finally catches up with the HAT Group

The construction boom, which began in 1974, has finally ended. The HAT Group, which has been the main beneficiary of the boom, has seen its profits fall sharply. The group's profits for the year ended in March 1978 were £1.1m, a fall from £5.75m in 1977. The group's turnover was £12.1m, a fall from £15.75m in 1977. The group's profits for the year ended in March 1978 were £1.1m, a fall from £5.75m in 1977. The group's turnover was £12.1m, a fall from £15.75m in 1977.

Inspectors discontinue port into Napet Securities

The investigation into the affairs of Napet Securities, which was conducted by the Inspectors of Companies, has been discontinued. The Inspectors have concluded that the company's affairs are not of public interest. The company's profits for the year ended in March 1978 were £1.1m, a fall from £5.75m in 1977. The company's turnover was £12.1m, a fall from £15.75m in 1977.

1. Industrials

The stock market's reaction to the recent report of the Royal Commission into gambling has been mixed. The commission's findings are expected to have a significant impact on the gambling industry.

& Godwin

The company's profits for the year ended in March 1978 were £1.1m, a fall from £5.75m in 1977. The company's turnover was £12.1m, a fall from £15.75m in 1977.

Briefly

CRYSTALLINE HOLDINGS Group has agreed to buy shares of Osborne Electronics (IW), a private company, for consideration of 2m shares of Crystalline ordinary shares plus £175,000 in cash, making total of about £736,000.

HAMILTON LEASING Hamilton Leasing has now become a wholly owned subsidiary of Finance for Industry.

CHADDESEY INV Pre-tax profit for year to March 31, £14,000 (£3,000). Earnings 0.55p (0.08). Nil dividend.

HARTWELL GROUP Profits for first six months in August 31 will be greater than for the corresponding period last year.

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD Harrissons & Crosfield's offer for Harrissons Malaysian Estates has been accepted by holders of 91.9m shares, or 55.04 per cent of total, bringing its share of HME shares to 80.76 per cent of total.

MICROFILMING RECORDS Mr. Samuels, Director of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping has said that microfilming of companies' registration records in Scotland should be completed in about a year's time.

FOOTMAN ENGINEERS Turnover for half year to April 30 was £23,000 (£196,000). April 30 was £2.2m (£1.6m). Pre-tax profit per share was 24.6p (18.6p). Interim dividend will be 7.5p gross (nil).

CASKET HOLDINGS Company has agreed to acquire two freehold and, subject to landlord's consent, 26 leasehold, menwear retailing units, owned or occupied by Sachs and Sherman, the Teesside Army Stores.

EL McCONNELL Petroleum and Plenty has specialist oil and gas subsidiary of Booker. It is to form a joint venture offering complete water systems to oil field for recovery from on-offshore fields.

FINANCE TRUST For year to April 4, £1.1m (£1.1m). Pre-tax profit, £1.1m (£1.1m). Interim dividend, 0.55p (0.44p gross). Dividend, 0.44p gross (nil).

LLA PRODUCE HDGS Offer by A. Mendes for the share capital of Lla Produce Holdings, declared unconditional and will remain acceptance until further notice.

THEAKSTON Ident brewer, T. & R. has agreed capital of £400,000 by London Trust. London Trust 48 per cent of enlarged which will be treated as investment.

GROUP Intends to change year to March 31 to December 31. These are to confirm ultimate holding company, Siddley.

Lagers sparkle at Whitbread

The dismal wet summer so far this year has meant a fall-off in trade at Whitbread, Mr Charles Tidbury, chairman, told shareholders at the AGM.

jump at B'ham Mint

Pre-tax profits of The Birmingham Mint managed to edge forward from £365,000 to £386,000 in the year to April 1.

Brotherhood slightly better than forecast

Results of Peter Brotherhood, which makes reciprocating compressors, steam turbines and turbo-generators, has done slightly better than forecast in April.

Yearling bonds unchanged a 10 pc

The coupon this week on Local Authority bonds remains unchanged at 10 per cent. The biggest borrowers are: City of Liverpool with £17.5m followed by the London Borough of Bexley, London Borough of Hillingdon, London Borough of Greenwich, London Borough of Haringey, City of Southampton, Preston Borough Council, and Birmingham District Council each with £1.

JCI/Anglovaal gold quarterlies

Randfontein's uranium plant treated 266,000 tons during the June quarter, compared with 228,000 tons in the previous quarter, or 89 per cent of designed capacity. However, the company states that uranium recoveries have not yet matched expectations, although they are substantially up on the first three months and a steady improvement is being shown.

Gold working profits were

	June	March
	qtr.	qtr.
J.C.I.		
Randfontein	18.2	13.6
West Areas	7.38	3.04
ANGLOVAAL		
East Transvaal	1.82	1.12
Hartbeest	24.07	13.73
Lorraine	0.23*	1.41*
	*Loss.	

Hogg Robinson weathers the storm

By Richard Allen

Hogg Robinson, the insurance broker, has weathered the effects of adverse currency movements and lower interest rates, to come up with profits at the higher end of market hopes.

On a 22 per cent turnover jump to £30m, the group has lifted pre-tax profits 21 per cent to £9.5m in the year to March 31.

Insurance broking profits turn out 27 per cent better at £4.8m, reflecting particularly strong growth in the United Kingdom.

Although Hogg is less exposed to currency fluctuations than some of its major rivals, with 44 per cent of its broking business coming from the United Kingdom, it estimates that sterling's strength has depressed overall profits by as much as £500,000.

Reflecting lower interest rates and the expenditure of £3m on fixed assets in connection with the new equipment-leasing arm, investment income has dropped 6 per cent to £1.87m.

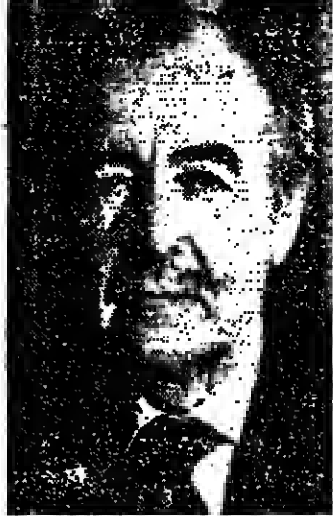
Shipping and freight forwarding has been every bit as difficult as the group predicted, with losses escalating from £35,000 to £241,000, although HR says that the division is now operating profitably.

Any leeway was more than made up by a strong improvement from the underwriting agencies. Profits here were up 69 per cent to £2.2m, reflecting better conditions in the 1975 Lloyd's account. The travel side continues to take advantage of increased demand with more than doubled profits of £407,000.

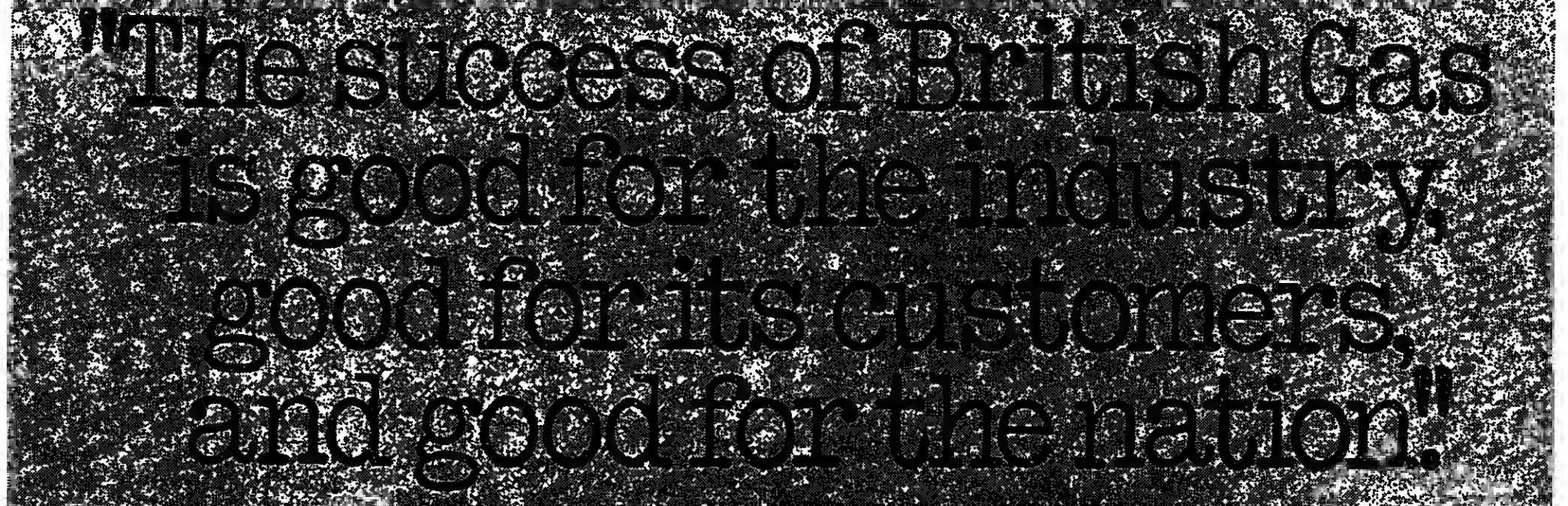
The final dividend of 3.85p gross takes the total payment up to 9.35p gross from 8.45p.

Meanwhile, the group is proposing a one-for-two scrip which some City analysts suggest may be a plying-up exercise as a prelude to a possible United States acquisition.

HR has been seeking to increase its presence in America for at least two years and chairman Mr Morris Abbott suggested last year that a direct brokerage interest in the United States might be achieved through a share-swap.



Mr Morris Abbott, chairman of Hogg Robinson.



Sir Denis Rooke, Chairman of British Gas, reporting on the 1977/78 results.

Tariffs Unchanged.

Gas tariffs were last increased in April 1977. No increases are planned before 1st April 1979. So tariffs will have remained unchanged for two years by next April—a real help in keeping down the cost of living in 14 million households.

Share of Market Up

Gas now supplies 44% of all home heating needs and 26% of all industrial heating needs.

New Source of Supply

Frigg, the first of the northern North Sea gas fields, represents a substantial boost to available supplies.

Conversion Complete

The natural gas conversion programme—the biggest operation of its kind in the world—involving 35 million appliances—was completed on schedule, at a total cost of over £1,000 million (including the cost of plant retired early). This has been met by the industry without subsidy.

Customer Service Improves

The number of service jobs carried out rose by about 1 million to 14.1 million—27 a minute on average, and the Gas Consumer Councils report fewer complaints.

£500 million Borrowings Repaid

The industry was able to repay some of the heavy borrowings that were needed to finance natural gas conversion. More than £500 million was repaid to the National Loans Fund, significantly reducing the public sector borrowing requirement and thus benefiting the nation as a whole. Lower borrowing reduces interest charges, with permanent benefits to customers. In 1977/78 the interest burden was £47 million less than in 1976/77.

Pre-tax Profit—£180 million

This provides a much needed boost to the industry's financial reserves and will help to keep British Gas efficient and successful in the future.

Future Investment Plans

The industry's 5-year investment programme amounts to £1,600 million, covering exploration for and the development of new gas discoveries, extensions to the pipeline system, gas storage—and research and development in many key areas, including new methods of producing gas and the more efficient utilization of energy.

Gas gets on with it

BRITISH GAS

The above facts are taken from the British Gas Corporation's Annual Report and Accounts for 1977/78—available from HMSO.

Three-fold rise in Japan's monthly surplus casts doubt on fulfilment of summit promise

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, July 18

Japan's controversial trade surplus rose almost three-fold in June to a near monthly record of \$2,376m, the Finance Ministry in Tokyo revealed.

Adding to the embarrassment of Mr Takeo Fukuda, the Prime Minister, his country's huge export drive last month would appear to bolster predictions that the current account surplus this year will surpass last year's of \$14,000m.

The statistics were released about 24 hours after Mr Fukuda assured a summit meeting of industrialized nations in Bonn that Japan's government was taking drastic steps to reduce Japan's lop-sided trade and current account surplus with the rest of the world.

His figures following the trend of the previous month—indicate that Mr Fukuda is now unlikely to live up to the promise he gave the world three months ago that Japan would take the Bonn summit talks seriously, that he would take steps

to restrain the volume of Japan's exports and encourage imports.

But, measured in terms of value, Japan's exports rose by 21.7 per cent (fob) last month to \$8,108m (on an unadjusted basis) against \$6,665m a year earlier.

At the same time imports dropped by 1.8 per cent over a year in June to \$5,732m (cost, insurance and freight).

This would mean that Japan's trade surplus rose to \$2,376m in June during the first six months of the calendar.

Japan's exports rose by 21.7 per cent (free on board) last month to \$8,108m (on an unadjusted basis) against the same period last year.

However, expressed in terms of the revalued yen, exports fell by 1.7 per cent and imports dropped by 20 per cent last month.

Mr Fukuda warned trading partners in Bonn yesterday that while Japan would take steps to reduce the volume of her exports, she would not cut the country's earnings from overseas markets, might

continue to rise if the West failed to curb inflation.

In terms of dollars, June's trade figures tend to bear out the Prime Minister's predictions. Measured on this basis exports to the EEC dropped by 3.4 per cent last month, while exports to the rest of Europe rose by 16 per cent to \$508m (cif).

Contrary to the trend of most other European nations, Japan's exports to the United Kingdom rose by 13 per cent in June, the third month in a row, to a monthly level of \$200m. On the other hand British exports to Japan rose by 26.5 per cent to \$130m, providing Tokyo with a monthly bilateral surplus of \$70m.

Japan's exports to the United Kingdom amounted to \$164m in June, representing a 39 per cent increase over the same period last year. Shipments of Japanese television sets, cameras, and other consumer goods to bankers in Tokyo predict that Japan's growing trade surplus with the United Kingdom in June last month is likely to push the value of exports to the UK to

By Richard Allen

Imperial Group yesterday launched an unexpected counterbid for control of the country producer J. B. Eastwood.

The offer is worth £32m or 160p a share cash for Eastwood, which is already the subject of an agreed £32m cash bid from the huge American grain concern, Cargill Incorporated.

Yesterday's move surprised the City as Eastwood's shares soaring by 35p to match the offer price, as dealers speculated about the likelihood of the approach being dropped by a reference to the Monopolies Commission.

Through its Ross Foods subsidiary, Imperial already controls more than a fifth of United Kingdom broiler production, and acquisition of Eastwood would make its share up to 32 per cent.

However, a spokesman for Imperial's financial advisers, Morgan Grenfell, said yesterday that he did not think this would necessarily provide a *prima facie* case for reference to the arbitration commission, given the wide spread of big competitors in the industry.

Cargill's advisers, Schroder Wages, said Cargill was considering its position in the light of the new offer and would make a statement, possibly this morning.

Eastwood's board is also to make a statement today after considering the new bid.

Family and boardroom interests have been given irrevocable undertakings that if the initial Cargill offer worth 132p a share. However, these do not become enforceable until the offer goes unconditional, and in this case official company documents have not yet been noted.

yet been posted. The Eastwood's profits declined 40 per cent to £50,800 as a result of a weak egg market and depressed margins on poultry. But the poultry business is highly cyclical and current profits promise a return to at least a partial recovery.

The bid comes only days after Imperial revealed interim profits down 12.6 per cent as the division's profits from its foods division almost halved to £8.5m.

Imperial argues that amalgamation with the Eastwood firmness would allow further improvements in efficiency, reduce consumer and add usefully to the scale of the group's genetic research for broiler, pullet and turkey breeding stocks, providing a further export market.

A spokesman for Imperial said last night: "We know Eastwood very well, but until we heard of the Cargill bid we had no indication that the company was for sale."

was not subordinated to the Monopolies Commission. The burden is passed the acquisition would lift Imperial's share of the United Kingdom egg market from under 4 to 12 per cent, and of the turkey market from 13 to 19 per cent. Together the two groups would have 40 per cent of the supermarket own-label sector and 19.6 per cent of the total market. The deal, Imperial says, is now represented by Burned Chicken.

Tragi contract: Thirteen poultry slaughterhouses are to be supplied to Iraq under a £21.5m contract awarded by the Iraqi government to a consortium of contractors in a joint venture with Ross Poultry, part of the Imperial Group. They will be installed at Duhok, Qadisiya and Samarra for the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform.

Financial Editor: 1982-83

Financial Editor, page 23

The bank has been building up its long-term debt, having launched issues of \$50m and \$100m in 1929 and 1930, respectively. Counting the new issue, debt will account for about 35 per cent of shareholders' funds of £381m, although retained profits should reduce this figure to about 30 per cent by the year-end.

Because of the increase in this ratio there is widespread speculation in the City that Standard Chartered will want to help finance its American acquisition by means of a rights issue.

The \$100m loan, which is being guaranteed by European Banking Company together with Schroder Wagg and Morgan Stanley, carries a margin over interbank rate of 4 per cent, payable set at 51 per cent.

Vlasov acquires fleet from Silva

By Peter Hill

British registered ships acquired by Silver Line have been acquired by the Moare Carlo-based Vlasov group. The group has held a 50 per cent interest in the fleet since 1974 and has now acquired the 50 per cent interest which was previously held by Capitefin, an Italian investment company.

Vlasov owns a diversified fleet of more than 40 vessels, including chemical tankers, products carriers, bulk carriers, oil tankers and three ice class ships. About 75 per cent of the vessels operate under the British flag. The fleet, of about 2 million tons deadweight, is second in size in the United Kingdom to the P & O fleet. However, excluding fleets operated by the international oil companies.

Formal announcement of the move will be made later today at the launching of the fifth in a series of new 10,000-ton tankers being built for Vlasov at the Cammell Laird yard, on Merseyside.



Mr Robert Crawford

Mr Robert Crawford, chairman of Silver Line, said yesterday: "This is good news for British shipping. At a time when almost the entire maritime world seems to be enveloped in gloom and pessimism, this represents an interesting act of faith by an international shipowner in further strengthening his involvement in the British shipping industry."

Business Diary, page 23

From Peter Norman
Brussels, July 18

Japan plans to encourage foreign governments and corporations to raise money on the Japanese capital market as a means of combating the country's balance of payments surplus. Mr. Takeo Fukuda, the Prime Minister, announced in Brussels today.

He told a press conference, after a visit to the European Commission, that his Government would also encourage its industry to invest more abroad. These latest undertakings by Tokyo are additional to the pledges to restrict exports and decrease imports made at the summit meeting yesterday.

entire spectrum of relations rather than just in terms of trading. He expressed his belief that Europe's trade deficit with Japan would decline, pointing out that exports from the Community in the first half of this year had increased 36 per cent over the same period of 1977, while Japan's exports to the EEC had risen by only 19 per cent.

However, Mr Roy Jenkins, president of the Commission, pointed out that the "costs and worrying imbalance" in Japanese-Community trade was one of the main subjects discussed today.

Mr Fukuda implied that his Government's promise to pursue official development assistance

Mr Fukuda was at pains to point out that the Japanese commitment to limit exports of high volume exports, such as steel, was temporary. Inflation was to be kept low, and the yen was to be depreciated at a high rate, or the dollar value of Japanese exports could show an increase in value terms.

Japan, he argued, could not solve its balance of payments problems alone. Other nations had a role to play by creating conditions of stability in their own countries.

Mr Fukuda is the first Japanese prime minister to visit the Commission in Brussels. He said today that it was his policy to strengthen ties between his country and Europe "in the

Official development assistance for the Third World over three years was a commitment in real terms of \$1 billion more to depreciate, the target might be adjusted to perhaps two and a half times present aid level.

He suggested that there was also a certain flexibility in Japan's domestic economic policy. His Government would consider additional measures to stimulate the economy if, over the next two months, it appeared that Japan might fall short of its 7 per cent growth target for this year.

Wall Street slides: The New York stock market sustained a 1.5 per cent decline on Tuesday and the Dow Jones industrial average fell 10.05 points to \$29.00.

By Nicholas Hirst

British Gas made a record profit of £180m in the 12 months to March 31, nearly six times its previous best, despite a heavy charge to counter the effects of inflation.

Under a new accounting policy the previous year British Gas made an additional provision of £100m to cover the cost of replacing its assets at current prices.

Last year this reduced profits by £145m. In 1976/7 the comparable 100m charge cut profits to £33m.

The £33m figure has been severely attacked by a report of the Price Commission on the issue of Scotland Electricity Board for taking only the part of the electricity profession's recommendations on inflation

accounting, which has the effect of reducing profits. However it was defended by the corporation's chairman, Sir Denis Rooke, at a press conference yesterday.

Mr. Rooke considered view that the charge we include in our accounts for supplementary depreciation is required in full to maintain the business on a level with the times.

He said, the recommended method would have reduced the supplementary charge.

Sir Denis explained that the profits were so high largely because of the 10 per cent tariff increase which had been made at the start of the year by Government request. "While this may seem a big profit," he said, "it is more than it should really expect in relation

The corporation has set itself a target of a minimum net 4 per cent return on sales and aims to increase reserves to 25 per cent of our assets. This target is quite ambitious, but we reached by 1981-82, the year in which former tax losses are likely to be used up and corporation tax will start to have past year reserves increased.

But the cost of its high cash flow to the corporation was able to make a net repayment of Government loans of £510m, and reduce its external finance to £50m.

But the cost of its North Sea supplies will continue to rise as the increase in the current year as the more expensive gas from the Frigg field rises from around 7.20 pence per cubic foot.

He confirmed for the first time that recoverable reserves from the corporation's gas fields in the so-called Morecambe Bay exploration block, off the Lancashire coast, are at least 2,000,000 million cu ft and could total 3,000,000 million cu ft, which compares with 7,000,000 million cu ft.

former compensation of £6m is to be paid to firms in the aircraft and allied industries which had nationalized. Mr Gerald L. Minister of State for Air, announced last night, brings the total payment due to companies which were under state control by the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Act, to £14m and the total paid out in compensation to some £47m. The balance is accounted for by settlements earlier this year of £15m with the Swan Group.

Companies to receive the payments are British Aircraft Corporation (Holdings), Aviation, Austin and Hill, Brooke Marine, Laird Shipbuilders, Russell and Company, Shipbuilding Group, George Clark and NEM.

Rises	
Brentnall Beard	2p to 30p
Eastwood, J. B.	35p to 160p
Elsburg Gold	6p to 118p
Guthrie Corp	10p to 357p
Harmony	9p to 38p
Lamp Gold Store	7p to 122p
Wiggins & Low	5p to 123p
Jokai	5p to 350p
Falls	
Barclays Bank	6p to 327p
Distillers	2p to 185p
Courtaulds	3p to 121p
Dunlop Hags	3p to 79p
GEA	6p to 122p
Wardars	6p to 225p
Hammerson 'A'	5p to 555p
<hr/>	
Equities retreated.	
Gilt-edged securities were quiet.	
Dollar premium: 108.75 per cent (effective rate 47.5 per cent).	
Sterling gained 35 points to \$1.8385. The effective exchange	
<hr/>	
On other pages	
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Appointments vacant	12
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Bank Base Rates Table	26

The Times index : 206.95 -2.52
the FT index : 472.4 -6.9

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Malta \$	1.71	1.65
Malta Sch	20.25	20.00
Mar \$	64.50	67.00
Mar \$	2.16	2.09
Mark Kr	11.05	10.55
Mex Mks	8.23	7.88
Mex Fk	8.72	8.32
Mex Dm	4.08	3.85
Mon \$	70.00	66.00
Dong \$	9.05	8.60
Libre	1655.00	1570.00
Yn	405.00	380.00
Argents Gld	4.38	4.15
Arg Kr	10.57	10.15
Arg \$	86.00	81.00
Aids Rd	1.97	1.84
Pes	149.50	142.50
Per \$	8.52	8.52
Per Kr	3.61	3.33
Perland Fr	1.94	1.88
Polonia Dr	36.50	34.50

for small denomination bank
only, as supplied yesterday. By
the London market. The bank
rates apply to travellers
and other foreign currency
tr.

Bank	23
King & Sons	23
Consolidated	21
Brothers	26

The anxieties concern the steady growth of imported motors in the range 1-100 horse power (0.75 to 75kW). Penetration of the Netherlands market is estimated at around

Washington, July 18.—The United States gold auction today attracted 32 bidders, the same number as at the last auction, with a top bid of \$189 offered by Adashi Gold Company of New York for 4,000 ounces. Among the bidders, Sammel Montague and Co of London, offered between \$184 and \$183.20 an ounce for a total of 10,000 ounces; Swiss Bank corporation bid for 12,000 ounces at prices ranging from \$181.54 to \$185.07 an ounce; Johnson Marthey 300,000 ozs at \$185.00; Credit Suisse 200,000 ozs at \$185.51 to \$185.01; Dresdener Bank 96,000 ozs at \$186.96 and 160,000 ozs at \$185.21 to \$184.81.

As expected within the industry, unit trust sales in June dipped below the levels of the two preceding months to £49.6m. The April figure was £70.3m followed by £53.2m in May, but the June figure still represents the third highest on record.

Repurchases in June totalled £25.7m, similar to the May level, but above the £21.2m monthly average for the first half of the year.

Net new investment in June of £23.8m makes the total for the first half of £165m, compared with £39m in the first half of last year and £105m in 1976.

By Our Industrial Editor

An anti-dumping case against imports into the European Community of electric motors made in Eastern Block countries has now been presented to the European Commission on behalf of all manufacturers throughout the EEC.

The case is being supported fully by Brook Crompton Parkinson Motors, GEC Machines and Newman Electric Motors, all leading British manufacturers.

The anxieties concern the steady growth of imported motors in the range 1-100 hp (0.75 to 75kW). Penetration of the Netherlands market is estimated at around

50 per cent. The corresponding figure for France, Italy, Denmark and Belgium is between 30 and 35 per cent and for West Germany 15 per cent.

Britain has a relatively low level of import penetration at present, but manufacturers have felt the impact to selling in the Community markets and competitors are expected to turn to the United Kingdom market to alleviate the problems in their own domestic markets. Motors made in eastern European countries tend to be keenly priced, and standardized products have made inroads in the main car foothold in the market. Replacement sales as well as original equipment.

Improved revenues from oil and gas sales

Year ended 31st March	1978	1977
	£	£
Total Revenue	2,642,251	1,853,652
Profit Before Tax	526,783	156,641
Profit (Loss) After Tax	160,515	(87,569)

- * Exploration in the North Sea continues as the major activity. Premier operates for three consortia with whom it participates. Plans for a new exploratory well on Block 3/23 are being agreed dependent upon Department of Energy approval.
- * In the seven years since entering the North Sea exploration scene Premier's market capitalisation has increased from £450,000 to over £16 million.
- * A strong balance sheet has been maintained which is necessary to expand the company's worldwide interests.
- * A Royalty Interest in the U.K. Piper Field was acquired with expected income after PRT of £1.84 million.
- * In California producing leases in the Midway Sunset field are giving an excellent return on investment.
- * In Italy the Reggente field interest has benefited by 5 gas development wells and a new gas discovery.
- * A new production sharing agreement in the Sudan Red Sea covers 2.7 million acres including substantial gas reserves.

Copies of the Report and Accounts, which contain a full review of current operations, may be obtained from The Secretary, 23 Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1W 0NR.

Residential property



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The letter reproduced below was received a few days
ago by the Classified Advertising Manager.
It is from 'Geo Joslin Estate Agents' who placed an advertisement
in the Property column on Wednesday 14 June.

Geo. Joslin Estate Agents
Est. 1879
327 Fulham Road London SW10 9CE Tel. 01 352 3746

15th June 1978

Dear Mr. Hoggins,

Re: ad Wed. 14th June 1978 - The Times.

We are pleased to inform you that the ad we placed
starting 'Park Walk, SW10' which appeared in your
paper yesterday resulted in numerous enquiries and
appointments. As a result, we had two offers on
one of the three flats available and accepted a
non-refundable deposit of £10,000 on behalf of our
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